

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, March 15, 1990

Published Since 1877

## Revival breaks out prior to 'Here's Hope' meeting

By Mark Wingfield

OAKLAND, Calif. (BP) — A California church has been forced to postpone its "Here's Hope" revival because advance outreach already has brought in 1,250 new converts, filling the church's sanctuary to overflowing.

True Vine Baptist Church in Oakland, will host its "Here's Hope" revival in September rather than April. That will allow the church to secure a meeting hall large enough to seat the crowds that already are too large for Sunday services, Pastor Newton Carey Jr. says.

Meanwhile, church members continue to share their faith through door-to-door distribution of "Here's Hope" New Testaments throughout Oakland. The church has nearly depleted its supply of 12,000 marked testaments.

True Vine is one of thousands of Southern Baptist churches nationwide preparing for the "Here's Hope. Jesus cares for you." simultaneous revivals sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Most revivals are planned for March and April.

The 500-member True Vine Church has experienced revival before the scheduled meeting, Carey said. "How could you have a better revival than 1,250 people already saved?" he asks.

The church will host a revival meeting during the time scheduled for its "Here's Hope" revival in April but will focus on a larger "Here's Hope" meeting now scheduled for September.

"They're winning people to Christ so fast they can't even keep up with the records," says home missionary Bill Simms, who is assisting in the outreach.

Carey credits the revival to the instrument of the revival, continuing Witness Training.

Hope" New Testaments.

Since November, members of True Vine have given one Saturday per month to door-to-door visitation throughout Oakland.

Just around the corner from the small stucco church building is the Acorn Housing Project, 750 apartments the government reserves strictly for single black women with children.

"Here's Hope" has been more appropriate than anything Southern Baptists could have done for us," explains Sallie Carey, the pastor's wife and church evangelism director. "When you see a family whose 14-year-old child has been killed in an accident, babies on crack, and you go to those families and say 'Here's Hope,' wouldn't that catch your eye?" she says, holding up one of the blue-and-gold New Testaments with the "Here's Hope" logo.

"This church has taken 'Here's Hope' to the N-th degree," says Simms. "It's just tailored to this church. I'd say it's the biggest thing that ever hit Oakland."

"This town is on the verge of a dynamic revival. Something is going to happen here."

True Vine got a head start on "Here's Hope" outreach by starting a CWT program two years ago. Mrs. Carey received a CWT manual in the mail and began teaching it in the church. She had trained 100 people with the personal evangelism tool before being certified as a CWT trainer herself.

Armed with nothing but the gospel, the church determined to claim the Acorn Housing Project. The buildings in the housing project are riddled with drug deals

transpired openly on the streets.

"The police didn't even come in here at night," Carey says. "But we used Jesus and went on over."

Mrs. Carey and a handful of True Vine members marched around the project seven times, stopping at strategic points to pray and claim the neighborhood for Christ. But nothing happened.

So they marched around seven more times, praying for a miracle. Soon afterward, the church held a block party for the project's residents, and things began to change.

"The walls of Jericho didn't fall down because they marched," the pastor explained, drawing upon Joshua's similar march around the biblical city.

"They fell because the people believed."

The block party opened the door for True Vine to use a community room at the Acorn Project for a twice-weekly ministry to children. On Thursday and Friday nights, about 80 children ages 5-18 come for food and Bible study.

The housing project is now "a different place," Simms reports.

"We're teaching them how to love," Mrs. Carey explains. "They really didn't know how to love."

"We let them know that if no one else cares for them, God cares."

"If you could just see the children's faces when they know someone cares for them. If you could see where they came from and where they are now — it's like a 100 percent change."

Carey has been pastor at True Vine for 15 years, persevering through more than a decade of lean times before reaping the current harvest. "It has to be God," he exclaims. "We couldn't have done this."

Wingfield writes for HMB.



## Youth week this week

CHARLESTON, W. VA. — Kim Keen, right, signs and sings "Jesus Loves Me" with Jennifer Stevens during children's church at North Charleston Baptist Church, Charleston, W. Va. A member of the church's youth group and a Mission Friends teacher, Keen exemplifies the 1990 Youth Week theme, "Commissioning: Direction for Service." Youth Week, sponsored by the Sunday School Board's Discipleship Training Department, is being observed March 11-18 in many churches. (Photo by Jim Veneman)

## Coup, violence slow work in South African homeland

By Craig Bird

EAST LONDON, South Africa (BP) — Rioting and looting after a military coup in the South African homeland of Ciskei left 20 people dead and more than 200 injured. Eight Southern Baptist missionaries assigned there are safe.

No injuries to Ciskei Baptists or damage to churches were reported in the wake of the March coup. However, attempts to contact pastors in two of the hardest-hit areas were unsuccessful as of March 6.

Ciskei army leaders seized control of the homeland, located on the Indian Ocean coast of South Africa, March 4. South African troops sealed off the country March 6 "to protect South African citizens and property," said South African foreign minister Pik Botha.

Missionary Gene Elder of Shepherdsville, Ky., who works with 23 churches in Ciskei, contacted pastors in Zwelitsha, Gومتوتاون, and the Ciskei capital of Bisho. He was told church members apparently stayed away from the rioting, which focused on stores and government offices and homes, and that the situation was much calmer March 6.

Missionary Rue Scott, head of the Baptist seminary in Debe Nek, Ciskei, said trucks and buses loaded with

cheering students passed the seminary March 5 and 6, apparently heading to Bisho for rallies celebrating the overthrow of President-for-life Lennox Sebe. Ciskei, designated a homeland in 1981, is not recognized as an independent country by any nation except South Africa.

Elder, who lives on the border of Ciskei in the South African town of East London, said pastors told him troops had sealed off all borders and urged him not to travel in the area for a time. He and his wife, Ellamae, of Greenville, Ala., canceled weekly visits in the area. A scheduled March 8 trip to take 65 mattresses to a tent camp of 1,000 refugees inside Ciskei also was postponed.

Two other Southern Baptist missionary couples work in Ciskei besides Rue and Gwen Scott, of Westbrook, Texas, and Cleveland, Okla., respectively, and the Elders. They are Troy and Marjorie Bennett of Winston-Salem, N.C., and Chagrin Falls, Ohio, respectively; and Gerald and Florence Pinkston of Levelland and Hereford, Texas, respectively.

Bird was in Ciskei while covering recent events in South Africa when the military coup occurred. He is on the staff of the Foreign Mission Board.

## Ban of Christian books?

DENVER, Colo. (EP) — A federal appeals court will decide whether a school board has the power to ban Christian books from a fifth-grade public school classroom.

The case involves a teacher whose principal ordered him to remove two Christian books from his classroom library. The teacher was also told not to read his Bible silently during a class reading period. Teacher Kenneth Roberts sued Adams County School District 50, in suburban Denver, alleging that his constitutional rights to freedom of religion and freedom of speech were being violated.

Last year U.S. District Judge Sherman Finesilver ruled in favor of the school district on the banning of Christian books from the classroom and on the matter of silent Bible reading. However, Finesilver ordered

the school district to return a Bible to the school library.

Roberts' case is being handled by Concerned Women for America, which says this is the first case in which a school district has enforced an outright ban on Christian books.

The school is receiving legal aid from the Jewish Anti-Defamation League and the American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado. School district attorney argues that Roberts had unconstitutionally promoted Christianity by having two Christian books in his classroom, and by silently reading his Bible, and said school officials issued the ban because the Constitution requires schools to be neutral on religion.

The ACLU has argued for "the right of impressionable elementary children to be free from religious in-

fluence" and "the right of parents to control the religious influence of their children."

CWA attorney Jordan Lorence said the action of school officials was not neutral, but sent a clear message of specific disapproval of the Christian faith, because books on Buddhism and Native American religion were allowed to remain in Roberts' classroom library. A school attorney said the Buddhists and Native American religion books are different from the Christian books, which the attorney dismissed as religious tracts.

Roberts has not been accused of using the banned books — The Bible in Pictures and The Story of Jesus — to teach religion, or of requiring his pupils to read them. They were among his 230-book classroom library which is available to pupils.



# Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

## Here's Hope, Mississippi

It has been the Southern Baptist experience over many decades that evangelism results are more pronounced as a result of simultaneous revival campaigns. That would surely seem to make sense for at least two reasons. First, with most of the churches joined together, the effort is more intense and therefore would produce more results. Second, with most of the churches joined together, the prayer power would be accentuated. That would produce more results without question.

Mississippi Baptists are just before embarking on two weeks of simultaneous revivals. The northern half of the state will be engaged in simultaneous meetings from March 18 through March 25. The southern half will have simultaneous revivals April 1 through April 8.

Only good can come out of these experiences.

Guy Henderson, director of evangelism for Mississippi Baptists,

said that 60 percent of Mississippi's Baptist churches will be participating in the simultaneous campaigns. While that is not all of our churches by any means, and it could be wished that all were participating, it is in the neighborhood of 1,200 churches; and that is a sizeable number. More than 1,600 churches across our state will be involved in revivals in the period of time encompassed in the Home Mission Board's simultaneous revival time frame.

There is never a time when a revival meeting is not in order. And at this time in the life of our nation and in the life of our denomination, a revival is desperately needed. It may hold out for us our only hope of survival.

If your church is involved in the campaign, be sure to be involved in the effort being undertaken by your congregation. If your church happens to be one that is not involved, surely

there will be one close by that will be taking part in the campaign. Your presence will be necessary in your own church. It would be a blessing to those of another congregation if that should be the case.

Evangelism results are like ripples on a pond. They keep spreading out from the center. If enough ripples are started, they begin to overlap each other. That is the way evangelization should be carried on. The Christians should be bumping into each other as they spread the Word wherever they are.

The simultaneous revivals will provide a good springboard for beginning such witnessing efforts. And they will also provide a harvest of souls in their own rights.

They deserve our utmost support. The motto for the simultaneous effort is "Here's Hope. Jesus Cares for You." That is a message that must be told.

## Guest opinion . . .

## Baptists on the move in Russia

By Charles C. Walker

Most Americans think of the Soviet Union as a country made up mostly of atheists, but that is not exactly accurate.

Even though atheism is the belief of 18 million plus professing Communists, according to inside information, it is estimated that there are more than 50 million professing Christians in the USSR; and that figure is rapidly growing.

The real problem is the fact that since the first Marxist state was set up in 1917, the Communists have permitted the church to exist with very restricted religious rights.

However, after 70 years of religious suppression in the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev surprisingly has opened up a new door of religious freedom; and our Christian allies, the USSR Baptists, have grasped the opportunity.

The pastor at the Baptist center and church of Moscow said that church now has more than 5,000 baptized members, and the church conducts six worship services each week.

The Christian world was shocked when Gorbachev, on national television, made the profound statement that "Jesus Christ was the only good man"; and now Mr. Gorbachev has become the only Communist party leader to visit the Vatican and the only one to accept a blessing from the pope.

Is Gorbachev a believer? If it were a fact, as a member of the Communist party, he could never make it publicly known. Perhaps he is making a political maneuver.

Perhaps this easing of religious suppression has resulted from the Soviets' plunging economy. Regardless of the reason, millions of Russian Christians are praising God for their new found freedom.

For example, Jacob K. Dukhonenko, superintendent of the Evangelical Christian Baptists of the Ukraine, said he baptized more than 50 people last week; and the Baptist churches have doubled their baptisms year to year.

My friends and I attended one of the six Baptist worship services held at the church of Moscow and also at the church of Kiev, and we were amazed. There was standing room only. The church was filled to its maximum. Both churches had 18 to 20 people to baptize. According to Dukhonenko, the last two years in the USSR have been a time for rejoicing. Even though the strict anti-religious laws from the Stalinist period remain on the books, the era of Glasnost and Perestroika have opened up new doors of opportunity.

The old legislation would not permit Christians, pastors, nor priests an opportunity to do any charitable work outside the walls of the church. Visiting hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, or public schools or speaking outside the church was forbidden.

Dukhonenko showed me pictures taken of his prison ministry and said he would gladly step down from his present position to serve full time in that ministry. He said Christ brings hope to those in Soviet prisons that have no hope. He stated that there is a tremendous revival taking place in the Soviet Union and it is sweeping the country. My question was, "What do you think has caused this spiritual acceleration?" He immediately gave the credit to God, who sent Billy Graham to talk to the government officials in 1982. He also stated that Mr. Graham's representative would be arriving the next day to devise plans for a 1990 Crusade in Kiev.

History has shown that religious

freedom has been the motive behind many revolutions. As a result, religious suppression has been the object of many dictators and dominating governments. For example, starting at the end of the 10th century the Soviet people were regarded as one of the world's most religious cultures. Their churches, literature, and music reflected their strong religious values.

St. Isaac's Cathedral Museum of Leningrad is filled with magnificent paintings depicting the birth, life, burial, and resurrection of Christ. It took 40 years to build this magnificent structure. My friends and I were overwhelmed with the love that apparently went into each part of this outstanding work.

It seems incredible that such a strong religious society could be dismantled so effectively, but that is exactly what transpired once the anti-religious state was established in 1917.

The church became the main target for destruction and elimination. Vladimir Daskov, our interpreter, made the statement that millions of Christians lost their lives at the hands of the state authorities during this period. As a result, out of 47,000 Russian Orthodox churches which existed in 1917, only 100 or so were still operating as churches by 1937.

The big question is, why did the government change its position? In the last few decades the government evidently felt that it had suppressed the church sufficiently and decided to permit churches to register and operate with state-imposed limitations. As a result, registered believers did not receive promotions and were denied other socialistic benefits.

With all the suppression, persecution, and slaughter that has been instigated to stamp out Christianity and the church, it is still a mystery how

## GLOBAL ANNOUNCEMENT

THE NEXT DAY JOHN SAW JESUS COMING TOWARD HIM AND SAID,



## New insurance available

The Southern Baptist Annuity Board is gearing up to provide a new type of insurance for the churches of the denomination. It is property and casualty insurance, and it will be available in Mississippi beginning in April. It has been tested in four other states already.

The insurance will be written by regular insurance companies already in the business. The Annuity Board will seek to get better rates for churches by being the vehicle for mass business. Annuity Board officials tell us that it is a fact that churches are better risks for property and casualty insurance than are homes, yet the same companies are writing coverage for both. The idea would be to lump the churches together so that advantage could be taken of their better experience.

Gene Daniel of the Annuity Board

the church has managed to survive. The Word of God has the answer. With man it is impossible; but with God, all things are possible. God has always left a remnant of believers to be led out of captivity into the promised land.

The big question now is, where do we go from here and what part should American Christians play in this Russian religious revolution? It is up to U.S. Baptists to pray and send financial support to the Russian Baptists while the revival is catching fire and while the government is not indicating that it intends to stamp it out.

Jesus Christ says, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, (that would include the Soviet Union), baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

(Continued on page 11)

was a visitor in the office recently to explain that the Annuity Board is getting ready to come into Mississippi with the new plans. The new approach certainly would seem to make sense and to be something that churches would be interesting in pursuing.

In a related matter, the new president of the Annuity Board, Paul Powell; Gordon Hobgood, the executive vice-president; and the public relations vice-president, Tom Miller, met with the state paper editors of the Southern Baptist Convention during their annual meeting in February. Many questions were asked concerning the cost of health care insurance. The Annuity Board group admitted that the situation is bad, but they pointed out that it is bad all over. The cost of medical and hospital care is high, it is rising; and the premiums of insurance policies must rise also for the companies to be able to pay the claims.

They noted that Southern Baptist churches and staff people are better off with the Annuity Board than with any other insurance operation. They assured us that the Annuity Board will be making the premiums as low as possible in order to handle the need.

The Annuity Board has built up a pool for such payments, but the high costs are depleting the pool. The premiums being charged at this point are not enough to cover the needs.

We were assured, however, that no money from annuity funds were being used for help claim payments, nor would they be. The health insurance will have to sit on its own bottom, they said.

In the meantime, the only hope is to hang tight and hope for some kind of a break in health care costs.

## The Baptist Record

VOLUME 114

(ISSN-0005-5778)

NUMBER 6

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi. The Baptist Record is a member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

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Postmaster: Send changes of address to The BAPTIST RECORD, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Send news, communications, and address changes to  
The Editor, Baptist Record  
P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205



## Prelude to precede SBC music conference

NASHVILLE (BP) — "Prelude," a conference for Southern Baptist church musicians, is scheduled to precede the annual Southern Baptist Church Music Conference prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting this year in New Orleans.

Sponsored by the SBC Sunday School Board's music service, the June 7-9 Prelude conference at the Downtown Marriott will include reading sessions by music publishers, premieres of new music, concerts by music artists and choral groups, and free music for participants.

The 34th annual Southern Baptist Church Music Conference will be June 10-11 at First Church, St. Charles Avenue at Napoleon, with the Downtown Marriott as headquarters hotel.

Mark Edwards, minister of music at First Church of Nashville and president of the SBCMC, said the church music conference program will "hold up the local church as the focus of the ministry by featuring church choirs, a pastor as preacher, and every kind of church singing group we can think of."

Music for the Prelude sessions will be "eclectic by design," said Mike Wilkins, coordinator of the music service. "Our dream is for a conference that will unite Southern Baptists from every part of the denomination and unify us in proclaiming Jesus as king through diverse musical tastes."

Prelude reading sessions and concerts will be provided by Alexandria House, Sparrow, Genevox, Purifoy, Kirkland House, Lillenas, Shawnee, Zondervan, and Word.

## February produces 8th- best CP total

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptist Cooperative Program receipts topped the \$12 million mark for the eighth time in its 65-year history in February, reported Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the convention's Executive Committee.

The Southern Baptist unified ministry budget received \$12,150,296 at the national level last month, Bennett said. That is an increase of \$721,581, or 6.31 percent, over February 1989.

February receipts brought the Cooperative Program's year-to-date total to \$59,872,497 at the end of five months of its fiscal year, he said. That is a gain of \$1,201,641 over the total for the first five months of the 1988-89 fiscal year.

The 2.05 percent year-to-date increase is about half the current U.S. inflation rate.

The Cooperative Program's national basic operating goal this year is \$134,787,543. It also has a \$2.5 million capital needs priority item, designed to pay off the debt on the five-year-old SBC Building in Nashville.

To meet that overall goal, Cooperative Program monthly receipts must average \$11,059,292 for the balance of the fiscal year.

The Cooperative Program is funded by contributions from individual Southern Baptists. Their gifts are processed through budgets of local churches and state Baptist conventions before reaching the Executive Committee for distribution to organizations that conduct evangelistic, missionary, and educational ministries worldwide.

Major concerts at Prelude will include Steven Curtis Chapman, songwriter/singer from Sparrow, Inc. in Chatsworth, Calif.; Dennis and Nan Allen, concert artists from Franklin, Tenn.; Marvin Matthews, gospel singer, and Tim Sheppard, Christian artist/singer, both of Alexandria House, Nashville, Tenn.; and NewSong, a quartet from Word, Inc., Dallas.

SBCMC program features will include Dick Baker of Prestonwood Church of Dallas; Kurt Kaiser, composer and concert artist from Waco, Texas; Steve Roddy, First Church of Houston; Tony Weston and Bill Davis, artists/ministers of music from Arkansas; Randy Edwards of First Church, Shreveport, La.; and the Celebration Ringers of Bellevue Church in Memphis, Tenn.

Church groups scheduled for the SBCMC meeting include the sanctuary choir of Immanuel Church in Little Rock, Ark.; the senior adult choir of First Church, Clinton, Miss.; the chapel choir of First Baptist Church, Pensacola, Fla.; the orchestra of First Church, DeRidder, La.; the sanctuary choir of Dawson Memorial Church, Birmingham, Ala.; and the young musicians choir of West Jackson Street Church, Tupelo, Miss.

Additional SBCMC program features will be the Louisiana All-State Youth Choir and the Seminarians of New Orleans Seminary.

Preacher for the conference will be Brian Harbour, pastor of Immanuel Church in Little Rock.

Participation in Prelude will provide a free first-year membership in SBCMC for people who are not members. Registration for Prelude of \$110 before April 1 or \$135 after April 1 may be sent to Music Service, 127 Ninth Avenue, North, Nashville, TN 37234. Registration may be charged to Baptist Book Store charge accounts by calling (800) 368-7421. In Tennessee, call (800) 223-2966.

The Clinton, Miss. choir will sing portions of a new senior adult musical, *Doors of Life*, published by Genevox, by Irene Martin of the Baptist Record staff.

## WMU meet will "Share his love"

Mrs. Charles (Joan) Tyler, of Collins, will preside over all sessions of the 111th annual meeting of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union March 26-27. This gathering is scheduled for First Church, Starkville. Beginning and ending times are 2 p.m. on Monday and 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

Mrs. Tyler is completing her first year as the president of Woman's Missionary Union of Mississippi. Assisting her will be Mrs. Robert (Stuart) Calvert, of Ashland, who serves as secretary/historian of the

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Tyler



Calvert

The Second Front Page

# The Baptist Record

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## Cambodia approves visas for Southern Baptists

By Michael Chute

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (BP) — The Cambodian government agreed in February to grant visas allowing Southern Baptist representatives to live in that country for the first time.

The visa approval and decision to place Southern Baptist personnel in Cambodia came during a survey visit to that country by representatives of Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist aid organization. CSI has tried unsuccessfully for three years to obtain residence visas for workers directing aid projects in Cambodia.

"We're doing all we can from outside the country," said Jack Shelby, CSI's Hong Kong-based administrator. "If we're going to expand our program, we must have people living there to expedite the projects. Now is the time to do that."

CSI representatives Bruce and Gloria Carlton are scheduled to move in April from their base in Hong Kong to Phnom Penh, Cambodia's capital.

Carlton directs CSI's Cambodia program, which focuses primarily on health-care services. Carlton is from Georgetown, Ky.; Mrs. Carlton is from Elkins, Ark.

The survey team of Shelby, Carlton, and development specialist Fred Kauffman found the situation in Cambodia "much more secure than we had anticipated," Shelby reported. "The country's stability has improved tremendously just in the last six months."

Fighting between Cambodian government forces and rebel factions centers along the border with Thailand and in Cambodia's north and northwest regions. Three rebel groups — the Communist Khmer Rouge, the U.S.-supported Khmer People's National Liberation Front, and the Sihanoukist National Army — are battling the Vietnamese-backed government of Hun Sen in those regions.

But Shelby called the central region around Phnom Penh and the

southeast "very peaceful."

United Nations' Security Council member nations are trying to persuade resistance factions to negotiate a peace settlement. Also, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen is conferring with Cambodia's Prince Norodom Sihanouk about possible solutions to the conflict. One such meeting took place Feb. 23, shortly before the CSI team left Phnom Penh.

Meanwhile, the government has made some moves toward more social freedom, according to observers. One evidence of more openness: in January Cambodian Protestants and Catholics were told they could hold public worship services. Ten small Christian congregations now meet openly in Phnom Penh.

Nearly 30 non-government aid organizations working in Cambodia have offices in Phnom Penh, including religious groups such as the Mennonite Central Committee, Lutheran World Service, Church World Service, World Council of Churches, and Australian Catholic Relief Services. Foreign doctors and nurses are now working in rural areas of the country. That was deemed too risky a few months ago because of rebel activity, Shelby noted.

"This government openness told us it was safe to go ahead" with placing personnel, said Shelby. The expatriate community in Cambodia now numbers 126, more than double the number six months ago, he added. "Essentially we're there to serve the needs of the people as effectively as we can in pursuit of CSI's mandate to minister to people in areas where missionaries can't go."

CSI projects in Cambodia concentrate on health care — one of the nation's greatest needs, especially among children. Cambodia had 665 doctors in 1975 when the Khmer Rouge took power. Just 12 doctors were found alive when Vietnam over-

threw the Khmer Rouge regime less than five years later. Only four still practiced medicine.

Since Southern Baptists' first worker in Cambodia — Marvin Raley — was a pediatrician, CSI became a partner in the Hun Sen government's fight against malnourishment and inadequate health care for children.

CSI work in Cambodia now includes:

- Work with the pediatric department of the government's January 7 Hospital in Phnom Penh. Southern Baptist help provides medicine, nutrition aid and basic medical equipment.

- Three years ago, CSI helped Cambodia's ministry of industry build the Kbal Thnal RINE Center. Meeting needs of children in rehydration, immunization, nutrition and education — RINE — the hospital serves factory workers and their families. Southern Baptist funds provide the hospital's nutrition aid and helped build the facility.

- CSI will provide \$50,000 to build a hospital in Kompong Cham province, a rural area. The hospital should be finished by June, officials said. The CSI aid funded about 90 percent of construction costs, with the district government providing the remainder.

- CSI just completed construction of the Prey Veng Nursing School. Located in Prey Veng province's capital city, the school accommodates 125 nurses and midwives in a one-year basic nursing course. The school has petitioned the government to add two more years to its program, but approval has yet to be granted. The project cost \$16,000.

In addition to locating the Carltons in Cambodia, CSI plans to increase provision of pediatric medicines to both the January 7 and Kbal Thnam hospitals. CSI is attempting to assure hospital administrators of a regular

(Continued on page 4)

## Forums: to study higher education

By Tim Nicholas

A series of open forums beginning March 27 in Brookhaven starts a study of Mississippi Baptist Christian higher education.

The state Education Commission voted last Friday to hold these forums to hear out the questions of interested Mississippi Baptists concerning the work of Mississippi Baptists in Christian higher education, and to begin to seek out answers.

The Commission, in its report to the convention last November, promised to hold such a study. The Commission added that "To be included in that study shall be consideration of the roles, the missions, the purposes,

financial support, and other relevant considerations pertaining to each individual institution and all the institutions collectively with appropriate avenues of applications included."

The Commission noted that it would not consider changing its formula for funding the colleges until such a study was completed.

Arthur Walker, who heads the Southern Baptist Convention's Education Commission, met with commissioners to suggest forms the study could take. He offered to chair a committee of professionals to analyze any data that commission gathers.

The Commission asked William

Carey College, Mississippi College, and Blue Mountain College to provide information from the past three years regarding their mission statements, institutional strategy planning, demographic statistics concerning students, and accrediting reports.

Each of the forums will take place at 7 p.m. at the Baptist associational office in the town listed. Should a larger crowd attend any session than the office can accommodate, another facility will be secured at that time, said Ron Kirkland, chairman of the Education Commission.

The total list of dates and places is (Continued on page 4)



# Alabama's Tondera to make v.p. bid

By Elaine Witt

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — An engineer and rancher from Huntsville, Ala., announced March 6 that he will represent Baptist laity in June as a nominee for the second vice presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Steve Tondera, a former president of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, said he agreed to be nominated because he believes the denomination is wrongly dominated by clergy from the conservative wing.

"As a layman, I will do my best to work toward returning the Southern Baptist Convention to efforts of mission and ministries and away from the control of a few for political power purposes," he said.

Tondera, a part-time cattle rancher and senior engineer at Marshall Space Flight Center, is a member of First Church, Huntsville.

He was endorsed at the news conference by his pastor, Allen Wallworth, and by Daniel Vestal, pastor of First Church, Dunwoody, Ga.

Vestal has announced he will allow his name to be placed in nomination for the SBC presidency for the second year in a row. He is expected to run against Morris Chapman, pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas.

Tondera, who led the Alabama convention from 1987 to 1988, said he was distressed by the laity's faltering voice in the national convention.

"This political power group has been and is using credalistic measures to influence the laity and many pastors into thinking that if you do not adhere to their man-made test, you are, liberal, and you cannot be part of the convention," he said.

He admitted that the SBC vice

presidencies are largely ceremonial posts, since appointive power lies almost exclusively with the president and the SBC committee on nominations.

But he said his candidacy was more than symbolic.

"It is an indication of the importance of the laity, and we make up about 90 percent of the convention."

Vestal and Tondera said they also would support the expected nomination of Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler, former executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, for the SBC first vice presidency.

Vestal acknowledged that the advance announcement of what appears to be a moderate "ticket" is contrary to the normal practice of announcing nominations at the June convention. He referred to an article in a newspaper published by First Church, Atlanta, in which he was criticized for politicizing the president's race.

"I think what's important is we're not living in normal times. We're living in times of crisis," he said. "There is a politics of exclusivity," he said of the "conservatives."

"For 11 years, they've excluded people, not because they don't believe in the Bible but because they won't participate in the politics of the denomination. There is a politics of slander, ... and of belittling other people and intimidating other people, and that kind of politics has no place in this denomination."

"I want to reaffirm my commitment to a decision-making process that is inclusive instead of exclusive."

Elaine Witt is religion editor of the Birmingham Post-Herald.



Sugg

McCullough

## BYW banquet will be held in Starkville

Baptist Young Women from across Mississippi are invited to attend the annual BYW banquet on March 26 at First Church, Starkville. The banquet will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the church's Applegate Building.

Guest speakers will be Nan Sugg, missionary to Taiwan, and Marjorie McCullough, president of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC. Dot Pray of Jackson will provide dinner music. Monica Keathley, state BYW consultant, will preside.

All BYWs are invited to attend the banquet and remain for the 7 p.m. session of the Mississippi WMU annual meeting.

The cost of the banquet will be \$4.50 per person. Reservations may be made by calling the WMU office at 968-3800, or by sending \$4.50 per person to BYW Banquet, WMU Department, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Deadline for reservations is March 22.

## Forums

(Continued from page 3)

as follows:

- March 27 — Brookhaven
- March 29 — Tupelo
- April 3 — Batesville
- April 5 — Columbus
- April 10 — Jackson
- April 12 — Greenwood
- April 17 — Meridian
- April 19 — Hattiesburg
- April 24 — Gulfport

## Cambodia . . .

(Continued from page 3)

supply of medicine, Shelby said. One official told the survey team medical supplies arrive at sporadic intervals "but these shipments are never enough."

CSI also is looking for ways to diversify its projects in Cambodia, probably by moving into agriculture and water development. In recent years CSI also has provided typhoon and drought relief.

Southern Baptists also are being asked to supply a health coordinator and elementary school teacher for Cambodia. The teacher is needed to help start a school for the growing expatriate community.

"The greatest thing that could happen to help Cambodia would be for peace to break out," Shelby concluded. "I came away with the strong conviction that we have to pray for peace in Cambodia."

But peace, if it comes, will bring a tremendous need for health care, social and agricultural relief in Cambodia's northwest, scene of the most intense fighting in the long guerrilla war, Shelby added.

Michael Chute writes for FMB.

## "Share His Love"

(Continued from page 3)

state organization.

Among special guests for the two-day meeting will be Mrs. Marjorie McCullough, Doris Diaz, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Lyle, Lewis Myers, Bill Causey, Dottie Williamson, and Nan Sugg.

"Pastors and other staff members of all Mississippi Baptist churches are

invited to attend all, or any part, of the annual meeting with their WMU members," said Marjean Patterson, executive director, state WMU. "The two-day convention will, from beginning to ending, celebrate the love of God and how he is at work in our world today."

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## Vestal defines 'bedrock' beliefs

By Toby Druin

HOUSTON (BP) — The "bedrock" of Baptist belief, "the foundation of our mission as Baptists, is nothing other and nothing less than Jesus Christ himself," not four things listed by the Southern Baptist Peace Committee report, Daniel Vestal told a missions conference in Houston Feb. 23.

About 300 participants at the conference, sponsored by eight Houston-area churches at Easthaven Baptist Church, heard Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Church in suburban Atlanta who has announced he will be nominated for the Southern Baptist Convention presidency in New Orleans in June, refer to remarks made by Morris Chapman, pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas.

Chapman, who also will be nominated for the SBC presidency, said in an interview that the Peace Committee report, adopted by the SBC in 1987, interpreted the Bible as "truth without any mixture of error" as meaning Adam and Eve were real people, the named authors did write the biblical books attributed to them by those books, the miracles were supernatural events in history, and the historical narratives in the Bible are accurate and reliable.

That, Chapman was quoted as saying, is "bedrock, Baptist belief."

Vestal, addressing the Houston missions conference audience, referred to Chapman's list of the four examples and said: "I disagree."

"I think the bedrock of Baptist faith is Jesus Christ, born of a virgin, living the sinless life, crucified, buried, resurrected, ascended and coming again — Jesus Christ the Lord, the Savior, the friend."

"The bedrock, the foundation of our mission is nothing other and nothing less than Jesus Christ himself."

Vestal noted that it also was said that Southern Baptists must believe in a "perfect Bible."

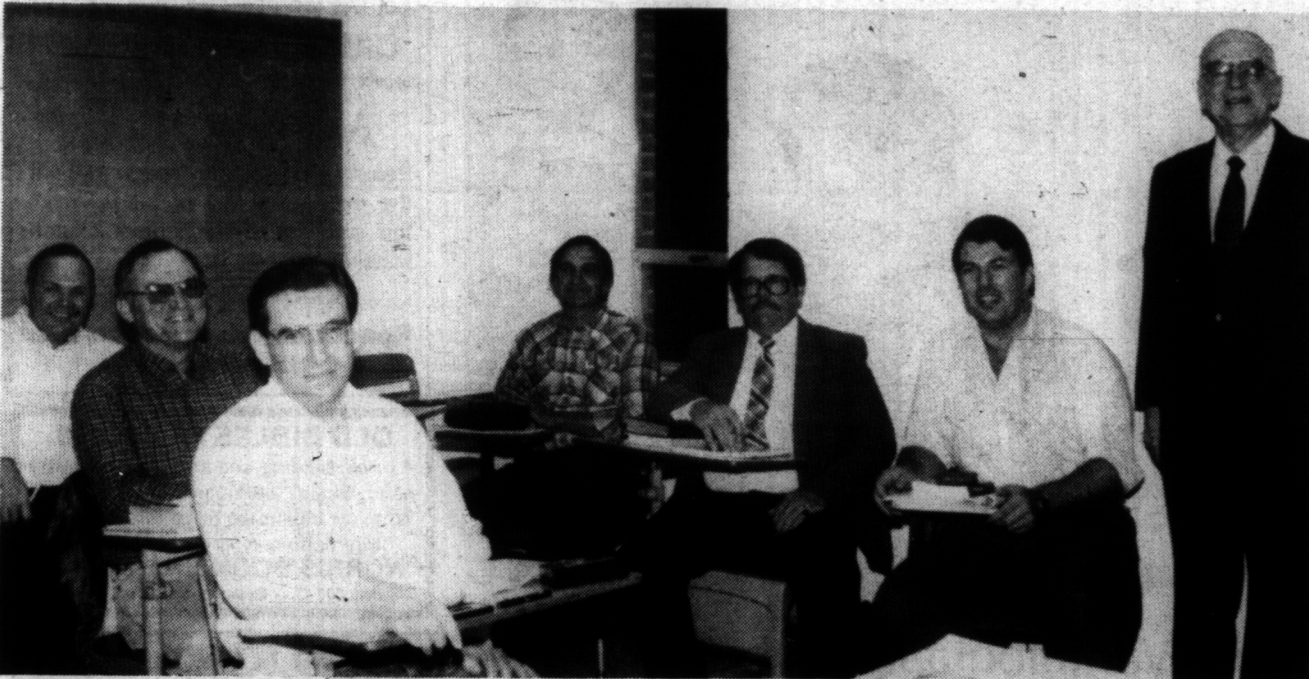
"I want you to know that I believe in the perfect revelation of God and in the perfect record of it in Scripture," he said. "I don't have any problem in confessing my faith in a Bible that is perfect and inerrant."

The problem, he said, is not with the Bible. "The problem is with us," he added. "We are not perfect ... in understanding ... ability to interpret ... ability to proclaim ... and surely not perfect in the ability to live by the Bible."

Vestal spoke at the conference on "Honoring the Past and Shaping the Future."

Toby Druin is associate editor of the Baptist Standard of Texas.





Six ministerial students are enrolled in the extension center of New Orleans Seminary at Clarke College. Pictured are James Dodds, Jerry Guess, Don Ray, Charles

Garner, Paul DeMoney, Greg Clemts, and J. Hardee Kennedy, professor. (Photo by Florence Ann Larrimore)

## Clarke Center for N.O. to open Mar. 26

The Clarke College Center of New Orleans Seminary will hold Term 4, 1989-90, of its associate degree program the weeks of March 26-May 15.

J. Hardee Kennedy, former vice president for academic affairs at New Orleans Seminary, will teach "Introduction to Old Testament" (second half of Old Testament), and Eddie Ruddick, professor at Clarke, will teach "Interpreting John."

The Old Testament class is scheduled to be on Monday nights, and the class on Interpreting John on Tuesday

nights. Time will be 6:30-10 p.m.

Classes will meet on the Clarke College campus. Registration will take place the first Monday night of the term at 6 p.m. on the campus. Each student will need to complete a schedule preparation form and pay the fees, both at time of registration. Only six hours of absences are allowed per term. Matriculation fee per course is \$100. Books are separate.

"New students who have not yet submitted a full, four-page application may register on a 'short form' ap-

plication for the first term of attendance," said Jimmy Dukes, associate professor/liaison for the center. "The 'short form' may be filled out at first class meeting. You must complete the full, four-page application before the beginning of the next term in order to continue to enroll in classes."

For further questions, contact Dukes on the seminary WATS line at 1-800-535-2666, or write him c/o New Orleans Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70126.

## Off the Record

The male shopper approached the sales counter and said, "I want some invisible hair nets for my wife."

"Here you are sir. They are 50 cents each."

"Are you sure they are invisible?" "Invisible!" exclaimed the salesman. "Why, I've been selling them all morning, and we've been out of stock for two weeks."

Half the time when men think they are talking business, they are wasting time. — E. W. Howe

When a man gets to talking about himself, he seldom fails to be eloquent and often reaches the sublime. — John Billings

Living movements do not come of committees. — John Henry Newman

## Lillian Thornton, former BR printer, dies at 93

Mrs. Lillian Dorris Thornton, 93, of 124 Ashcot Circle, Jackson, a retired newspaper publisher, died of a heart attack March 5 at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center.

Services were held March 7 at Wright and Ferguson Funeral Home.

Mrs. Thornton, a Kilmichael native, was prominent in the newspaper and music fields in Mississippi. She and her husband, the late Duke Harper Thornton, were owners of the weekly Neshoba County Democrat in Philadelphia. The couple also owned Thornton Publishers in Jackson until their retirement. They printed the Baptist Record from 1956 until 1966. Their son-in-law, Benton Cain, is the present printer of the Baptist Record, and has been since 1967.

Mrs. Thornton was a former president of Mississippi Press Women's Association and former president of the MacDowell Music Club of Jackson.

She was one of the first home demonstration agents for Mississippi State University in Montgomery and Yalobusha counties and Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. For many years, she taught the Senior Women's Sunday School class at Broadmoor Church, Jackson.

Survivors include four daughters, Lorene T. Cain of Jackson, Mary Nell T. Currie of Kansas City, Mo., Lillian T. Landry of Houston, Texas, and Carolyn T. Brown of Kingston, Ontario; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

A bee is never as busy as it seems; it's just that it can't buzz any slower. — Kin Hubbard

## BR gives USM credit for Carey mission project

Last week's Baptist Record inadvertently gave USM credit for a William Carey College mission project. The story said that the BSU of the University of Southern Mississippi was taking a mission trip, March 9-16, to inner city work with Missionary Mildred McWhorter in Houston, Tex. Actually, it is the Baptist Student Union of William Carey College which is making the trip.

The group, led by Carey BSU director Frank Bowers, will lead a Backyard Bible Club, do construction work, paint, serve in a soup kitchen, and do health screening.

Others on the trip include Shannon Varnado; Joy Vaughn; Tina Williams; Chris Dufrene; Donnie Reynolds; Darren Milley; Rhonda Hensarling; Cindy Rachel; Tony Bernard; Darla Kling, BSU intern on the coast; and Marilyn Sullivan, New Orleans nursing instructor; plus three nursing students from the New Orleans campus.

Also, a story concerning Sunday School leader training was incorrectly used under the BSU headline. That story is being reprinted elsewhere in this issue.

## Houston churches invite world heads of state

HOUSTON (BP) — President George Bush, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, and other heads of state or their representatives attending the economic summit in Houston July 9-11 have been invited to attend worship services and a day of prayer July 8 in eight Southern Baptist churches in the area.

The invitations and announcement of the day of prayer were announced at a "Missions 2000 Conference" at Easthaven Church, Houston, Feb. 23-24.

The conference was sponsored by Easthaven Church and seven other congregations to "celebrate our Southern Baptist heritage of cooperative mission endeavor."

The Friday-evening-through-Saturday morning conference featured addresses by Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church in suburban Atlanta; Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler, former executive director of Southern Baptist Convention Woman's Missionary Union; Houston layman John Baugh; and Midland, Texas, layman Jim Lacy.

A press release issued following the conference notes recent events in the world have placed Christian missions "on the threshold of a pivotal moment."

"We are committed to doing all we can to provide the resources necessary to minister to the spiritual needs of people throughout the world," the statement says. "We realize, however, that any evangelistic effort will be hampered as long as provision for the physical and economic necessities of life are not forthcoming."

"On July 9-11, the leaders of the seven major industrialized democracies will hold an economic summit here in Houston. These world leaders will discuss and make decisions that will determine the economic realities of existence for people throughout the world. We believe that such momentous decisions are only properly made after seeking the guidance and direction of

the Almighty."

In addition to the leaders of the seven leading industrialized nations, "countries in the process of democratization and integration into the world economy will be present as observers," the release notes; and representatives of those Soviet and other Eastern Bloc countries also will be invited.

Easthaven Church Pastor Bruce Prescott said his church already has sent an invitation to Bush and Gorbachev.

Others participating and the leaders they have invited include:

— First Church, Galena Park, Jerry Webber, pastor, inviting Premier Ciriaco de Mita of Italy and Premier Georgi Atanasov of Bulgaria.

— Golden Acres Church, Pasadena, Royce Measures, pastor, inviting Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Great Britain and President Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia.

— Meadowbrook Church, Houston, Tony Pearson, pastor, inviting Prime Minister Brian Mulroney of Canada and Premier Miklos Nemeth of Hungary.

— Nassau Bay Church, Bill Rittenhouse, pastor, inviting Interim President Ion Iliescu of Romania and exiled King Michael of Romania.

— South Main Church, of Houston, William L. Turner, pastor, inviting Premier Toshiki Kaifu of Japan and Premier Ante Markovic of Yugoslavia.

— South Main Church, Pasadena, Ron Lyles, pastor, inviting Chancellor Helmut Kohn of West Germany and Prime Minister Hans Modrow of East Germany.

— University Church, Clear Lake, Robert Creech, pastor, inviting President Francois Mitterand of France and Premier Tadeusz Mazowiecki of Poland.

Anyone can do any amount of work, provided it isn't the work he is supposed to be doing at that moment. — Robert Benchley

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Meet me June 10-11 at the New Orleans Convention Center for the WMU annual meeting. Meet me June 12-14 at the Superdome for the SBC.

Together, we can make a difference!

*Lillian N. O'Brien*

Executive Director  
Woman's Missionary Union, SBC



# Hunger gifts plunge from 1988 to 1989

By Louis Moore

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptists' hunger gifts in 1989 plunged to the lowest point since 1984, according to figures released by the two Southern Baptist mission boards.

Southern Baptist contributions for domestic and foreign hunger in 1989 totaled \$7,905,322. This represents a decrease of 12 percent from similar giving in 1988. In 1984, Southern Baptists gave a record \$7,166,772 to hunger ministries.

That mark was shattered the next year with a record \$11,830,146. Giving dropped in 1986 to \$9,089,279. Hunger contributions totaled \$8,931,339 in 1987 and \$9,009,764 in 1988.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board reported receipts of \$6,613,785 in 1989, a decrease of \$1,015,667 from 1988. Receipts for domestic hunger through the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board were \$1,291,537 and represented the first drop in five years in domestic hunger gifts.

The total figures for 1989 do not reflect receipts for general relief at the Foreign Mission Board. General relief funds go for projects that are not necessarily hunger specific, such as church rebuilding. Total figures also do not include money given for hunger ministries that were utilized in local Baptist churches, associations and state conventions.

"The sharp drop in hunger gifts to one of the most comprehensive and effective hunger ministries in the world is extremely disappointing," said Robert Parham, associate director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, which coordinates education and action on hunger issues among Southern Baptists.

"The drop is bad news for hungry people everywhere, but especially for those at the dawn of life. So much of a child's life is determined in the first several years of development," Parham said. "Malnutrition can mean that brains and bones fail to

develop properly. It's a real tragedy."

"Southern Baptist agencies, Baptist state papers, and other leaders need to tell the bad news about hunger and the good news about what our mission boards are doing to meet hunger needs."

Nathan Porter, domestic hunger consultant for the Home Mission Board, said: "I am extremely anxious about the giving to world hunger because we have associations, churches, and missionaries who have established extremely effective hunger ministries which are dependent on these funds. They have no other place to turn."

"These hunger funds have been an impetus — a motivation — for churches and associations to begin hunger ministries."

John Cheyne, director of the human needs program at the Foreign Mission Board, cited "donor fatigue" as a major factor in the decrease in giving. Donor fatigue results from the "awesome number of appeals made by so many organizations interested in the issue of hunger," he said.

Decreased media attention on world hunger as well as the reporting of non-Baptist misuse of hunger funds have both contributed to the decline in giving, he said.

"There has been a rather significant backlash from the many stories that have gone out about the misuse or the alleged misuse of hunger funds," he said.

Richard D. Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission, said the commission "is committed to assisting any church, association, or organization we can to promote hunger giving."

The Christian Life Commission in 1988 produced a video on world hunger. That video is available in the offices of each association in the convention as well as through the CLC office in Nashville.

Louis Moore is on the staff of the Christian Life Commission.

## Secretaries' conference will take place at Camp Garaywa

The Mississippi Baptist church secretaries' conference will take place April 9-10 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton. Theme is "The Ministering Secretary."

The conference begins with lunch on April 9 and concludes at 3:15 the next day.

Lisa Leavell, a former church secretary, will lead a series of devotionals during the conference.

General sessions include discussions on "Handling Stress in the Office," led by Ron Mumbower, minister of counseling at First Church, Jackson; "Developing a Healthy Self-Image," led by Charlie Ray, a professional model and public speaker from Hattiesburg; and "Dual Career Marriage," led by Mary Libby Payne, public speaker and Mississippi College professor.

Participants may choose any five of a series of simultaneous conference topics including: "Letter Writing Update," "Secretaries are Ministers," "Improving Personal Relations," "Layout for Newsletters," "Annuity Information/Retirement Plans," "Desktop Publishing," "Salary, Church Taxes, and Insurance Infor-

mation," "Managing Your Work Schedule," "Developing Christian Charm," and "Self-Defense for Women."

The annual banquet for the Mississippi Baptist Secretaries' Association will be held at 6:15 on Monday. All registrants for the conference are invited.

Cost of the conference is \$26 to cover four meals and overnight lodging at Garaywa. Those not planning to stay overnight pay for meals they plan to eat. Breakfast is \$3; lunch and the banquet are \$4 each.

For registration details, contact the Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, phone 968-3800. Registration should be made prior to April 2.



## Ventriloquist to perform

John Yates, ventriloquist and music evangelist from Jackson, will be a featured performer April 28 for Lad/Crusader Day at Central Hills Baptist Retreat. The event will be sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Brotherhood Department, and the deadline for registration is April 24. James Young, missionary to Bangladesh, also will be a program personality. Camping is available, but registration for camping must be made by April 13, according to Dan West, Central Hills manager. Arrangements may be made through West at P. O. Box 237, Kosciusko 39090 (phone: 289-9730).

## CLC board approves program statement change

By Louis Moore

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission trustees approved proposed changes in the agency's program statement to include religious liberty but adopted a resolution saying their action should not be misconstrued as advocating the change.

Last fall the commission was asked by the Southern Baptist Executive Committee to propose changes in its program statement to include religious liberty.

CLC commissioners needed to approve the proposed changes in order for the proposal to go to the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in June in New Orleans.

The resolution adopted by commissioners at their March 1-2 meeting in Nashville said, "We go on record that the commission has not advocated a particular position on this recommendation from the Executive Committee but express our willingness to do the will of the Southern Baptist Convention as it is expressed by the convention in June, and further we recommend that our executive director and the executive committee of the Christian Life Commission be commended for their wise and discreet response."

It was adopted unanimously within minutes after the commissioners approved without amendment the proposed program changes.

The proposed change in the CLC's program statement would make it one of three entities authorized to speak on behalf of Southern Baptists on religious liberty. The other two are the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and the Southern Baptist Public Affairs Committee.

During the meeting, CLC Executive Director Richard D. Land said the commission did not seek the religious liberty assignment but would be will-

ing to undertake it if the convention desires.

Louis Moore is on the staff of the Christian Life Commission.

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## Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld. The withholding of names will be at the discretion of the editor.

### WMU slandered

Editor:

After reading an account of the recent meeting in Atlanta of the leadership of fundamental-conservatives, we have concluded that WMU has been slandered.

The group of "more than 250 people from 21 states" met to map strategy for the election of the fundamental-conservative candidates of the Southern Baptist Convention. Missouri journalist James Hefley reported that, because Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler, a moderate-conservative candidate for first vice president, is the immediate past executive director of WMU, "leaders feared she would attempt to establish a precinct-type campaign organization in each state through Woman's Missionary Union."

People often anticipate in the behavior of others what their own behavior might be in similar circumstances. Are these leaders fearful that women's missions organizations will place priority on winning an election rather than on winning the lost?

In order to combat such anticipated misuse of the WMU organization, "participants at the meeting pledged to monitor WMU to make sure it is not used for political purposes," Hefley said.

Nothing in Carolyn Weatherford's leadership of WMU would indicate to us that she would use for her own personal gain the organization to which she has devoted the major efforts of her life, nor would she stoop to the kind of political scheming some anxious minds envision.

The larger issue is the accusation that WMU is susceptible to political control or willing to be used for any purpose other than its stated goals.

Throughout its first 100-plus years, WMU has proved its single-minded commitment to the mission of Christ. Women and children of WMU have steadfastly promoted the two major annual missions offerings and encouraged daily prayer for missionaries. WMU is the life-line of Southern Baptist home and foreign missions.

The pledge to "monitor WMU" challenges the very integrity of every person in the organization. Since the Atlanta meeting was hosted by Charles Stanley and presided over by Adrian Rodgers, it seems appropriate that these two gentlemen issue a public apology to every member of WMU in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Martha Trotter  
Pensacola

### MissionsUSA

Editor:

MissionsUSA, Home Mission Board publication, is available on a free subscription basis to pastors/mission pastors, WMU/Brotherhood directors, and state convention/SBC leaders. Those who fit one of these categories, should let us know, and their names will be placed on a complimentary list to receive the magazine.

MissionsUSA is available to other readers on a paid subscription basis: \$6.50 (1 year); \$11.00 (two years).

Checks should be made to the Home Mission Board, SBC, with orders and addressed to: Home Mission Board,

MissionsUSA Subscription; Customer Service Center; 1350 Spring Street, NW; Atlanta, GA 30367-5601.

Phyllis Thompson  
Editor  
MissionsUSA

### Ina McFall retirement

Editor:

I sincerely regret I had to miss the retirement reception on Feb. 16, honoring Mrs. Ina McFall.

I had the real joy of being Ina McFall's pastor for a number of years. In all my 25 years as a Baptist minister, I have never known a sweeter Christian lady than Ina McFall. She was dynamic in her faith in our great God, and she lived what she professed. Ina McFall was indeed a real pastor's friend. Ina had the kind of face a preacher picks out in his congregation to focus on. She had a real positive outlook on life as a whole. I recall when her late husband, Oscar, was so sick, she faced each day with confidence that her Lord was in control and everything would be all right.

In all the times I visited in her home, I never once heard her say a cross word about anyone. She loved her church, and always spoke uplifting words about its ministry.

I admired her unwavering faith in her God and his answered prayer. I soon found out that Ina McFall prayed about everything, and she expected great things from God. She taught me much about the value of the time of prayer in a Christian's life.

She loved her work with Mississippi Baptists, and she always gave it 110 percent.

I am so happy she now can enjoy a well deserved retirement. Mississippi Baptists have been most blessed to have Ina McFall work in their Baptist Building. I and many others are so blessed to have had Ina McFall touch our lives.

Don Nerrin, Chaplain  
Mississippi Baptist  
Chemical Dependency Center

### The ways of life

Editor:

The older I become the more I realize that sin does not pay. If each person could "incorporate" God's will into their lives, what a happy, prosperous, and healthy world we'd become.

No wonder God tells us to continually read his Word (Holy Bible). In it are the ways to live out a long and peaceful life. As we become all that he desires of us, it is actually helping us. It is for our own good he seeks. He wants us to be blessed and happy; therefore, he has given us the "rules and regulations" of a blessed life.

It is as we stay on that narrow road that God talks about that we have joy, peace, and abundant life. It is as we stray to the left or right that we hurt others and ourselves.

If anyone of us could see the end results of our mistakes, we would willingly have stayed on the narrow road. So many times we think that "narrow" means limited when actually it is the fullness of our blessings and what we are seeking.

It's what we suppose is the most fun that destroys us in the end... the broad way that leads to destruction.

Linda S. Leach  
Greenville

# Abortion becomes 'benchmark' for CLC conference speakers

By Marv Knox

NASHVILLE (BP) — Abortion will become the litmus test for speakers at meetings sponsored by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

The CLC voted 12-11 to "respectfully request our executive director to refrain in the future from inviting speakers who support the so-called 'pro-choice' position on abortion."

The motion was approved during the CLC's spring meeting March 1-2 in Nashville. Commissioners took opposing sides on the policy.

"There are more important issues than abortion we ought to agree on," said Harry A. "Hal" Lane, pastor of West Side Church in Greenwood, S.C. "The issue of salvation is far more important, yet we work with people who have different theological views."

Liz Minnick, a homemaker from Austin, Texas, disagreed. "Abortion is the benchmark issue... because this is life. The way you look at abortion colors how you look at all issues," from creationism to pornography, she said.

James Paul Wood, pastor of Mount Vernon Church in Atlanta, offered the motion, a substitute for a more binding proposal by Skeet Workman, a homemaker from Lubbock, Texas.

Workman's motion would have required the CLC to "not invite speakers who support abortion to participate in any... function of the (CLC), and if by accident it is later found that a confirmed speaker does support abortion, he/she be asked to step down; and as a witness to this person, we tell him our opposition to abortion as a reason to remove him."

The effect of the two motions would be the same, Wood said, although his proposal does not completely eliminate the possibility of someone with a contrary position speaking at a CLC event. "Someone who's not real clear could be invited, but someone who's clearly opposed to us should not be invited," he explained.

As originally proposed, Workman's motion would have covered speakers at the CLC's national seminar March 12-14 in Birmingham, Ala. And that would have included Glen Stassen, professor of Christian ethics at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Wood's motion, as well as a friendly amendment he attached to Workman's original motion, excludes speakers already confirmed for CLC events.

But Stassen remained the commissioners' illustration during their discussion.

Presenting her motion, Workman singled out Stassen, "who has signed a pro-abortion statement," a petition drafted in 1977 titled "A Call to Concern." The petition notes, "We support the Supreme Court decisions of 1973 which had the effect of removing abortion from the criminal law codes" and voices concern about "those who take the absolutist position that it is always wrong to terminate a pregnancy at any time after the moment of conception."

Stassen represents the kind of speaker who should not be on CLC platforms, Workman said. "We do not need to give them the floor of our conferences and seminars, even though they may be known in other areas," she added.

In a prepared statement released after the meeting, Stassen said: "I believe in the right to life for all persons. I believe we need to work

together in practical ways to deal with the actual causes of abortions.

"My wife, Dot, is a nurse who has chosen to work full time at a special school for teen-age mothers who have elected not to have an abortion. She helps them nurture and care for their babies, stay in school, and plan their vocational futures. Our blind son, David, is extensively handicapped as a result of the German measles Dot got in the first three months of pregnancy. We did not get an abortion. Instead, we have tried to help David cope with the suffering of 14 operations, including heart surgery twice, and struggle against heavy odds to grow into a bright linguist who speaks German without an accent.

*"The way you look at abortion colors the way look at all issues."*

"I am especially surprised that speculation about my position on abortion became an issue even though I have been invited to speak on an entirely different subject — peacemaking in the family. My area of specialty is peacemaking and justice, not medical ethics.

"I am also saddened that some have chosen to criticize me without first talking with me as Jesus admonishes in Matthew 5 or without reading or hearing anything I have said about abortion. I wish instead of extrapolating from a signature on a petition 13 years ago that these persons could get to know me and my family.

"Despite these misguided attacks, I am grateful to (CLC Executive Director) Dr. (Richard D.) Land and the commission for inviting me to speak... I hope my presentation will be helpful to the commission and to families.

"I think it's regrettable that some persons have made up their minds about me on the basis of a petition I signed 13 long years ago, that I didn't write and that I don't even remember very well. I do remember that I signed the statement based on my Baptist convictions about religious liberty and freedom of conscience.

"No one asked me what my current views on abortion may be or about what I am trying to do in practical ways to deal redemptively with the causes of abortion. I believe dialogue is always better than diatribe."

During debate, Celia Minix, a homemaker from Alexandria, Va., said, "I have a problem with associating... with people who do not stand for what Scriptures clearly teach us."

Carl W. Garrett, pastor of Emmanuel Church in Overland Park, Kan., countered: "One of the criticisms of Jesus is that he sat with publicans and sinners. To say we cannot associate with these people is opposed to what Jesus taught."

Nancy S. Schaefer, president of Family Concerns Inc. in Atlanta, noted: "It's due to compromise that we are where we are in our churches... We need to be careful where we compromise. If we ask him to speak on one area and he's pro-abortion in another, we send out a message."

"We want to provide the greatest expertise on every issue," said Coy C. Privette, director of the Christian Action League of North Carolina in Raleigh. "The secret to get anything done in government is coalitions... We must trust our staff to bring us the finest minds in America."

Wood's proposal subsequently addressed that issue. It said: "We do not wish to hinder (Land's) efforts at building coalitions and relationships with those who make common cause with us on particular issues. But given the depth of our concern and the continuing tragic lack of understanding among many people regarding the abortion issue, we specifically urge that no future speakers be invited who have clearly demonstrated opposition to the pro-life movement."

John Yeats, pastor of Shawnee Heights Church in Topeka, Kan., said he is opposed to speakers who have "made a public show" for abortion. "We as Southern Baptists do not need people on our programs who are pro-death," he added.

Land said Stassen had been invited to the Birmingham seminar for his "peculiar perspective on the theology of transforming initiatives." He also praised Stassen for his receptivity to Land and the CLC, noting Stassen had asked Land to lecture in his classes, had distributed CLC literature, and was bringing 10 students to the seminar.

"I don't think any reasonable, rational person is going to come to any other conclusion than that this Christian Life Commission is pro-life," Land said.

"We have a Southern Baptist Convention which is diverse, and we need to affirm people when we can affirm them. If we are confident of our position, we want people to hear us... If we take a policy which severely restricts us, we are going to lessen our ability to get a hearing for what we clearly believe is a superior view."

He later told commissioners, "If you decide to pass this issue on pro-life, you need to give us a definition of pro-life," noting Christians hold a variety of views.

Privette urged the CLC to defeat the proposal and allow staff and commissioners to do their jobs. "Either we trust our executive director, or we don't," he said. "Either we trust our program committee, or we don't."

"This is showing trust," contended Workman. "It is a statement and a desire we are expressing."

During discussion of the policy, commissioners turned down a recommendation to create a committee to "study procedures for the program and promotion items to be reviewed before contracts are signed and literature published."

After the final vote, Chairman Joe W. Atchison, director of missions for Benton Baptist Association from Rogers, Ark., noted: "We're together (on the abortion issue). We're behind our staff. We're very supportive... This was a procedural matter."

Garrett responded, "I hope I never get to the point where my wife says, 'I trust you, but I want to vote on it.'"

The CLC then approved without dissent a motion by Lane to "commend the executive director and staff for their comprehensive efforts."

Marv Knox is features editor for Baptist Press.



## Consensus challenges '90s, scholars say

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Building a denominational consensus is the major challenge facing the Southern Baptist Convention in the 1990s, according to a panel of Baptist leaders and teachers speaking at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

"The SBC in the Year 2000: Toward a Believable Future" was the theme of a discussion sponsored by Samford's Beeson Divinity School. The session was moderated by Charles T. Carter, pastor of Shades Mountain Baptist Church in Birmingham and president of the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

Panelists included Nancy Ammerman, assistant professor of sociology of Religion at Emory University and a member of Oakhurst Baptist Church in Atlanta; Timothy George, dean of the Beeson Divinity School; and William E. Hull, provost of Samford University; and Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Describing the convention as "at an impasse," George said: "We cannot go back to the pre-1979 days. Those days are gone forever, along with the Studebakers and 5-cent Cokes." But the SBC "cannot continue along our current course... without committing denominational suicide," he added.

The solution is a consensus built on several elements, including a structure of dialogue, responsible inclusiveness, theological integrity, evangelical ecumenism and a God-sent revival, George said.

Joining the call for consensus, Land said Southern Baptists are "in search of a new equilibrium."

Ammerman said consensus and equilibrium are different models. "If a new consensus emerges, it will be a doctrinal consensus, not a sociological or cultural consensus" such as that which has united Southern Baptists in the past, she noted.

"To those for whom the equilibrium is satisfactory, it will be consensus," Land said. "There will come to a point at which enough conservatives will be satisfied so that the desire for more" change will be eased.

Another factor in achieving denominational consensus will be emergence of a new generation of Southern Baptist leadership, Hull said. "One of the things that will permit moving beyond polarization is general turnover," he explained.

A member of the SBC Peace Committee, Hull said, "We spent much of our time on the Peace Committee bathing the wounds of... scarred warriors." For many participants in the denominational battles of the 1980s, he said, too much ill will remains to achieve real consensus.

Land agreed with the need for new leaders to move beyond the current impasse. "I see a real generational difference in willingness to reach out and move beyond past hurts," he said.

Panelists agreed on the need for expanded dialogue as a means of achieving denominational consensus.

"We need to talk to one another, not just about one another," said George. "It's difficult to demonize someone you talk with and meet with and pray with."

Agreeing on the need for improved discussion between factions in the denominational controversy, Land said: "Two people arguing with each other is not a dialogue. We have to build a trust level... through listening."

George called on pastors Daniel Vestal of Atlanta and Morris Chapman of Wichita Falls, Texas — both announced candidates for the convention presidency — to meet and talk together "both before and after the convention."

Private dialogue, however, may not be sufficient to create a clear consensus, Ammerman noted.

"Southern Baptists still typically talk about dialogue in personal and private terms — if we can just get these people of good will together and let them discover they like each other, it will all go away," she said.

But such an approach has one major problem, she added: "We are talking about public and not private disagreements. If we're going to reach consensus, there must be a public acknowledgement of the positions."

Beyond dialogue, several panelists stressed the need for a new level of inclusiveness in Southern Baptist life.

George expressed "a desire to reach out and include people from both sides who have been excluded." The candidate who wins the presidency, he said, should make appointments which include people from both sides of the convention controversy.

Land said he is optimistic about reaching consensus in the decade of the 90s, noting, "I think we will reach a new equilibrium that will be very inclusive."



Church meets in tent

Under the shelter of the tent which houses Capernaum Baptist Church in Maracaibo, Venezuela, pastor Isaias Rojas (left) and Southern Baptist missionary D. H. (Butch) Strickland recount the church's history. The 130-member congregation has met in this tent for almost five years, while also starting three

mission congregations, including one in a federal prison in Maracaibo. Rojas describes the church's priorities: "First of all we look for souls. Then we build a temple for the people who come to know Christ as their Savior." (BP) PHOTO by Don Rutledge

## Ethnic baptism ratio, church starts increase

LOS ANGELES (BP) — The baptism ratio for Southern Baptist ethnic congregations reached a high in 1988-89, and nearly 500 units were begun, a report from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board reveals.

Oscar Romo, director of the board's language church extension division, said the baptism ratio reached 14-to-1 for the church year that ended Sept. 30, 1989. The ratio was up from the previous eight-year average of 10-to-1. That means an average of 14 ethnic Southern Baptists reached one unchurched person for Christ.

Nationally, the ratio of Southern Baptists to baptisms was 44-to-1.

Ethnic congregations also reported 485 units established during the year, an increase of 30 from 1988. Romo released the figures during the board's language church extension conference in Los Angeles.

Romo also said the board helped local churches resettle 573 refugees from 13 countries. In addition, 1,225

ethnic leaders were trained in church starting and evangelism strategy through 84 ethnic leadership development centers.

The gains underscore the silent strength that language congregations bring to the Southern Baptist Convention, he noted.

"Although there are those who say that ethnic groups do not give to world missions through the (Southern Baptist) Cooperative Program (unified budget), the record shows an increase of 243.5 percent for 1980-87.

Cooperative Program gifts would be considerably less if it were not for these language-culture congregations," he said.

Board President Larry Lewis said Southern Baptists must not practice selective evangelism.

"It is the responsibility of every church to see that the gospel is shared with every creature. Somehow, somehow, we must find a way to com-

municate the gospel to every person in the manner and cultural context that he or she can understand," he said.

Although everyone will not understand or accept the message, Southern Baptists remain commanded by Scripture and accountable to God to share the gospel message, he added.

Stating that the work of the church is "to be Jesus in the community," Lewis praised ethnic congregations for "stepping into the gap left by Anglo Southern Baptist churches who left the inner city for the suburbs. You have sought to redeem it for the kingdom of God."

About 150 Southern Baptist state missions directors and language missions directors attended the annual meeting. In addition to group sessions, participants fanned out across Los Angeles on Sunday to worship with ethnic congregations and experience the city's ethnic communities.

## Empty silos in Romania to get Baptists' aid

By Art Toalston

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Many of Romania's silos are empty, devoid of seed just as the planting season is at hand. But Baptists are addressing the crisis in one depressed section of the country.

More than \$1 million in hunger relief funds donated by Southern Baptists will buy seeds, fertilizer, pesticides, herbicides and spraying equipment for farm cooperatives in the region surrounding the city of Bacau in northeastern Romania, said John Cheyne, who directs human needs ministries for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Government officials have assured Romanian Baptists, who will oversee distribution of the aid, that they will be able to spread the Christian gospel as they provide seed, Cheyne said.

The new assistance follows \$100,000 in Southern Baptist relief funds released in December to help counter shortages of food and medicine in the wake of communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu's fall from power and execution.

Seventy-one farm cooperatives in the northeastern region range in size from 800 to 3,000 people and from 2,200 to 6,600 acres, Cheyne said. He and Van Williams, a physician and administrator on the Foreign Mission Board staff, met with Romanian Baptist leaders in mid-February to discuss possible avenues for Southern Baptist aid. The number of cooperatives to be aided has not yet been determined.

Besides agricultural aid, Baptists will provide medicines to the region's

major hospital, a 2,500-bed facility in Bacau, to alleviate severe shortages. Baptists in Europe or Southern Baptists also may help the hospital fill other needs, including two ambulances and replacements for outdated equipment.

A 170-bed orphanage will receive washing machines and dryers to improve sanitary conditions and lessen the spread of such diseases as hepatitis, Cheyne said. The orphanage, which houses children up to 3 years old, also will receive food supplements and vitamins.

Southern Baptist volunteers also may be needed, Cheyne added. People with expertise in crop production and animal husbandry could help the cooperatives upgrade their farming methods, while medical personnel

could teach new and specialized skills to the Bacau hospital staff.

Under the oppressive Ceausescu regime, most of the corn, wheat, potatoes and sugar beets grown by the cooperatives (then called communes) were exported to obtain hard currency. That left "members of the communes with only the dregs for their labors," Cheyne said.

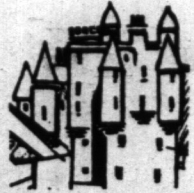
In the emotion of their first taste of freedom, workers long deprived of their crops raided the silos and began consuming grain the government had stockpiled for seed, Cheyne recounted. "Now, if the cooperatives aren't helped, they're going to become increasingly desperate. They have a little bit of raw hay left (for undernourished cattle), but that's about all."

The cooperatives are in one of the poorest regions of Romania — a region bypassed by much of the aid flooding into Romania from neighboring countries, Cheyne said.

Food shortages in Romania are serious, but not as desperate as the hunger that again threatens the lives of millions in Ethiopia, Cheyne added. "The tragedy right now in Ethiopia is that we're not allowed to go into those areas of need, and neither is anybody else," he said. The Ethiopian region where Southern Baptist workers administered millions of dollars to combat the 1985 famine has become contested territory between government and rebel forces.

Toalston writes for FMB.





# Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Thursday, March 15, 1990

## Evelyn Redd retires

"Take my life and let it be, consecrated, Lord, to thee..." Lucy Redd sang Tom Fette's arrangement of this as a prayer hymn at her aunt, Evelyn Redd's, retirement party Feb. 19 at the Baptist Building.

It was an appropriate selection, for commitment has been a key word in Evelyn's life goals. "Whatever the task before me," she said, "I have been committed to that."

She joined the staff of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board as office secretary with the Sunday School Department on March 3, 1969. With her retirement Feb. 28, she had completed 21 years of service.

Keith Wilkinson, director of the Sunday School Department, said, "When I think of the thousands of letters that you have helped us send out, the thousands of phone calls you have handled, the hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people across this state whose lives you've touched through your work, I can only say, 'We thank God for Evelyn's work and ministry through the Sunday School Department.' Her knowledge of people involved with the Sunday Schools in our state will be missed."

Commitment to the Christian cause and to the Sunday School in particular is a trait that reaches far back into her family background. Her great-grandfather, Pleasant Smith, founded Pleasant Grove Church (near Evelyn's native Brookhaven) by teaching a Sunday School class it's been told, in the back of his wagon. Her grandfather, L. S. Redd, and her Grandmother Redd became charter members of Gum Grove Church, Lin-

coln County, in 1891. Her other grandfather, Elbert J. Smith, gave the land for Gum Grove Church.

Her Christian parents, Samuel J. Redd, farmer and timberman, and Ada Smith Redd, school teacher, influenced her life more deeply than anyone, she said. As a youth, she wanted to be a teacher like her mother.

She moved to the Baptist Building from across the street at First Church, Jackson, where during the pastorate of Douglas Hudgins she was office secretary and receptionist for 12 years. Before that time, she had held a similar position at First Church, Brookhaven, under the pastorate of Brooks Wester. At a time when Evelyn was seriously considering entering New Orleans Seminary (she was a graduate of Brookhaven High and Co-Lin Junior College, Bryant Cummings, who had moved to First Church, Jackson's staff, called to see if she would consider the job in Jackson. "I prayed about it," she recalls, "and decided that was what the Lord wanted me to do."

Her first full-time job was as a salesclerk at Lofton's Department Store in Brookhaven. Afterward, while bookkeeper in a bank, she did volunteer work at First Church, Brookhaven, for the music director, Robert Burton, who is now on the music staff of Southwestern Seminary.

Converted and baptized at age 15, she has always been involved in Sunday School and other church activities. At First Church, Jackson, she sang in the choir for 27 years

(1957-1984). Her favorite hymn is "Have Faith in God." Now she is secretary of outreach for one of the fifth grade Sunday School departments; in the past she has taught children, youth, and adults in Sunday School.

She has been chairman of the Nominating Committee for First Church, Jackson, and served on the Search Committee once at First Church, Brookhaven, for employment of an education director.

In 1979, she was named Co-Lin's Alumnus of the Year, as woman representative. She has served as president and vice-president of the college's alumni association.

"What is your dream for retirement days?" She answered that without hesitation — "Rest!" In addition, she plans to read (biographies, mysteries, cookbooks...), continue to be active in church, and visit family members more. She said she plans to continue living at North Hill Square Apartments in Jackson.

Family members present for her retirement party included her sister and brother-in-law from Columbia, Lucile and Ray Leggett; her two brothers and sister-in-law, Lowrey Redd of Brookhaven and Ralph E. and LaNeil Redd of Natchez; her nieces and nephew and their families, Mark and Cathy Leggett and Rachel of Clinton; Mrs. Bill (Laura) DuBose and Skyler of Columbia; and Lucy Redd, who is on the staff of First Church, Natchez.

For the party, her nieces and nephew and their families gave her an arrangement of fresh flowers. The Con-

vention Board presented her a gold bracelet and a book about the South, and the Sunday School Department gave her a plaque of appreciation and a crystal biscuit barrel, since she likes to cook.

"Working for people of such high caliber as Doug Hudgins, Brooks Wester, Bryant Cummings, Horace Kerr, and Keith Wilkinson made an enormous impact on my life," she stated.

"Faithful, efficient, dependable, knowledgeable," these are words her fellow staffers have used to describe her.

Certainly it is to be expected that commitment would be the watchword of one whose favorite Scripture is



Evelyn Redd

Philippians 4:13 — "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

## Evangelist attempts to set record of most books published in U.S.

At age 32, Southern Baptist evangelist and writer Shawn O'Hara is attempting to set the U.S. literary publication record, by publishing 500 books he has written. He said he has completed the writing. His manuscripts include 62 stories for motion pictures, as well as 2,655 songs. O'Hara has written love stories, adventure stories, books of wisdom, and other miscellaneous books. Also, he has written more than 20 musicals. The total handwritten volume of his works, he said, reaches over 31 feet.



O'Hara

O'Hara received both B.S. and B.A. degrees from William Carey College. He is a member of Main Street Church, Hattiesburg.

Last year O'Hara ran for mayor of Hattiesburg, but lost the election. He has been on several television shows, and has had his own daily one-hour radio program.

O'Hara said his plans for this year, besides publishing 500 books, are to continue working with his anti-abortion organization called "Jesus Loves Children." Also he said he is negotiating with Jim Bakker about writing a book for Bakker.

O'Hara has background in prison ministry, having counseled with such people as Mark David Chapman (he murdered John Lennon) and Ted Bundy.

## Devotional

### Love one another

By Don Dobson

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. (John 13:34)

Americans recently celebrated Valentine's Day. It appeared that each and every store in any city had hearts and Cupids for sale. Why? Love, of course. We spend almost one billion dollars annually on Valentine's Day. Love is indeed a powerful emotion, as well as a capital gains tool.



Dobson

Jesus had a great deal to say about love. He instructed us to love one another. No problem, right? Sure it's a problem. We all know people who are not very lovable. These persons may be our neighbors. They could be our fellow workers. It is possible that they could even be people we attend church with on a regular basis. Yes, at times it is difficult to love those we deem unlovable. But, are they really incapable of being loved? Not at all.

As you and I attempt to love, we must understand that we do not love in our own power; but rather, we love through the grace of Christ. No, this is not a cop-out of our own feelings. It is an acknowledgement before God that we need some help in loving one another.

I have no problem in loving my wife. My children are easy to love. I even love my dog. But, I must admit that there are those who tax my own capacity to practice Agape; thus enters Christ. He did say that he would make all things new. Perhaps he will make our ability to love new. I believe that he will. First, we must be willing instruments that will love, just as we've been loved.

Love is not a many-splendored thing. Love is not a warm puppy. Love is certainly not "never having to say that you are sorry." Love does not make the world go 'round. Love is not a third rate romance and a low rent rendezvous.

Love is the power of God bursting forth from us to all mankind. Love is action. Love is God dying on a cross. Love is a new command that he has given to us. Love is that tangible quality that allows all men to know that we are his disciples. May we, by the grace of God, love one another.

Dobson is pastor, Collins Church, Collins.

## Blackwater to celebrate 150th

By Bob Egbert

Members of Blackwater Church, Kemper County; their pastor, Clayton Littlejohn; and Charles Quinnelly, chairman of the Sesquicentennial Committee, are planning a special celebration for April 8 to mark Blackwater's 150th anniversary.

Services will begin at 10 a.m. on April 8. Dinner will be served on the ground at noon. A nursery will be provided. The afternoon services will begin at 2. The morning service will be filled with songs of praise, recognition of former pastors and their families, a reading of the church history, and a message by Edward McKeithen, a former pastor. The afternoon service will include more praise singing, a challenge to the church by the current pastor, reflections by former pastors, and a closing message by J. Hardee Kennedy, who preached during the Centennial meeting on Aug. 4, 1940.

Quinnelly says that the lunch will be free. To know the number for whom to plan, the church would like to hear from those who expect to be there. Phone 601/681-8219 or 681-8221, or write Blackwater Baptist Church, Rt. 1, Box 301, Daleville, MS 39326.

Picture a group of 19 devout Christians, including four elders or preachers, gathered at 2 on April 16, 1840, at Jack Irvin Brown's store at Lauderdale. This event was recorded in an old tattered book of minutes on yellow-stained sheets of paper of a century and one-half ago. They met to formulate plans to become part of the

Choctaw Association that October.

The first name of that body of believers was "Mt. Moriah," and they kept that name until 1844 when it was changed to "Blackwater Baptist Church." This name was suggested by Manohar McWilliams who, with others, brought letters from a little church in Alabama by the same name. A nearby creek, with the name of Blackwater, was so called by the Indians when they noticed that in the fall the dying leaves would land in the creek, and turn the water black.

The first officers at the organization were John Mosley, clerk (grandfather of a future pastor, O. R. Mosley); Elisha Mosley, treasurer; and Thomas Gewin, first appointment to the Executive Board. John Mosley served the church as clerk for 20 years. Thomas Gewin's grandson, John Gewin, later became home editor of the Kemper County Messenger of DeKalb.



Ross

Michael Ross came from Independence, Texas, and served as first pastor of the new church, 1840-1846. There have been 45 other pastors who have served through the years at Blackwater.

The first deacons to be ordained were Robert and Elisha Mosley. The first building committee consisted of Robert and Elisha Mosley, John Spinks, O. Matheny, Jim Campbell, and Pastor Michael Ross. The first ordained minister (1841) was Elisha Mosley. The first musicians were Ida (Rhodes) Mosley and Laura (McWilliams) Stevens. The first church building was constructed of pine lumber that came from Mr. Cullum's sawmill. It was 30 feet by 40 feet with two doors on the north side. It cost \$375.00.

The motto of the early church was: "We strive most valiantly until the goal is gained. Then more eagerly look for one still unattained; Past and present records point out the course we take, Far greater than these, we yet strive to surely make." These words ring in the ears of the members of Blackwater Church as they continue to strive to serve the Lord.

Egbert is a member of Blackwater Church, and of the Sesquicentennial Committee.





# Just for the Record



**Paul Truitt Memorial Church, Pearl,** celebrated the final payment of the quarter-million dollar note on its building, Feb. 25. The celebration included a noteburning, testimonials, and a meal in the now debt-free fellowship hall. Jimmie C. Wood, pastor, commended the membership for their faithfulness in retiring debts of over \$268,000 during the past four years. He noted that the church's involvement in the "Here's Hope Sunday School Enlargement Campaign" signaled a commitment to continue to grow and develop.

Pictured, left to right, Bennie Wallace, treasurer; Jimmie C. Wood, pastor; Mrs. Nona Peoples, charter member; and Mrs. Debbie Purvis, chairwoman, finance committee.



**Dewayne Rigdon, pastor, Montrose Church, Montrose,** stands in front of the arrangement created by Mrs. James Pugh to emphasize and encourage the church to give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

The globe represents "Christ for the whole wide world." The flags are of some of the countries where Southern Baptist missionaries serve. Each flag represents \$50 toward the goal of \$1,500 which the church met and passed. Montrose Church has 75 resident members.



**Lexie Church, Walthall,** recently held an Acteens coronation entitled, "His Way — Mine" during the Focus on WMU program. The program was presented by Acteens Heather Dufrene and Tisha Terrell with Pam Shepherd, Acteens leader for girls, age 12-14.

Acteens, ages 15-17, receiving awards are pictured, from left, Denise Brock, Traci Holmes, Amy Rayborn, and Lisa Boyd. These girls were presented a crown and a scepter for achieving the Queen and the Queen with Scepter levels by Doris Hill, leader. Lisa Boyd also received a cape for achieving the Queen in Regent level.

**Southern Hills Church, Jackson,** will celebrate its 24th anniversary on March 18. Sunday School will be held at 10 a.m. and worship at 11 a.m. A covered dish will be served at noon in the fellowship hall. A service at 2 p.m. will include gospel singing. John Cockrell is pastor.

"Country Day" will be held at **Southern Hills Church, Jackson,** April 7, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Anyone interested in reserving an area for an arts and crafts booth, contact Pam Cockrell, 372-2473.

Meek young men grow up in libraries, believing it their duty to accept the views which Cicero, which Locke, which Bacon, have given; forgetful that Cicero, Locke, and Bacon were only young men in libraries when they wrote these books. — Ralph Waldo Emerson



**The GAs of Big Creek Church, Wayne County,** held a Mother/Daughter Tea on Feb. 21. For the program, the girls presented a skit written by one of the GAs. Each girl reported on at least one thing they did in mission study this past year. The WMU women were invited guests. A buffet style supper was served after the program.

GAs, pictured, are Shandi Bonner, Jammie Hutto, Malissa Childers, Rachel Cochran, Brandye Shows, Tashia Hudson, Bethany Mills, Joy Brumfield, Janie Adams, Carrie Hutto, Vanessa Adams, Shanna Phillips, and Sakrina Williams. Leaders are Louise James and Sue Mills.



**Diana Chiles,** pediatric therapist with Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, Jackson, was recently guest speaker for chapel services on the Clarke College campus.

Chiles, with the help of her puppet assistant, Bernard, ministers to hospitalized children in times of medical stress. She described instances when she and Bernard were able to effectively meet needs of children facing serious medical problems.

## Senior adult corner

**The Triple L Club of First Church, Kosciusko,** was host to the second annual joint meeting of senior adults from the XYZ Club of First United Methodist Church and the 50 Plus Club of the First Presbyterian Church of Kosciusko.

Couples from all three churches who have been married 50 years or more were honored. A covered dish luncheon was served to the 118 senior adults present.

Dot Craft, president of Triple L Club; Dot Carballo, coordinator of the XYZ Club; and Anne Alexander, coordinator of the 50 Plus Club were in charge of arrangements.

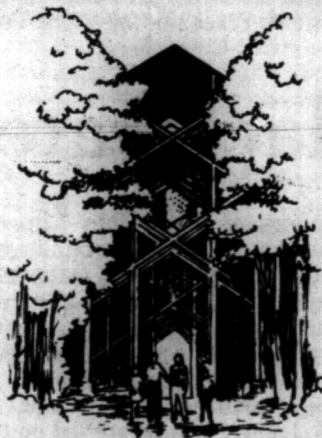
## Church retreats are better in Eureka Springs, Arkansas

Gather your group and come to Eureka for quiet contemplation and good clean fun. Our village is full of family attractions your group will enjoy.

The Great Passion Play presents its first performance of the season on April 27. On the grounds, also, are the Christ of the Ozarks Statue, The New Holy Land, Bible Museum and other sacred projects.

At St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church, the unique bell tower entrance featured in Ripley's "Believe It Or Not" is a favorite group stop.

Just outside town is lovely Thorncrown Chapel, the wood and glass masterpiece designed by award-winning Fayetteville architect E. Fay Jones. Mr. Jones was recently honored with a gold medal for lifetime achievement from the American Institute of Architects — presented at the White House by President George Bush.



All over Eureka are attractions appropriate for your group. Gorgeous Ozark scenery to country music to shopping and dining in our Victorian downtown. Get your group or family together and visit soon.

Call toll free or write for a free Eureka Springs brochure and other information: 1-800-643-3546.

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# Revival dates

**Belden (Lee):** March 18-23; services, noon and 7 p.m.; Ben Yarber, Canaan Church, Columbus, evangelist; Russell Flood, Columbus, music; Don Baggett, pastor.

**Bethlehem, Benton (Yazoo):** March 18-21; Sunday services include dinner at the church, afternoon service featuring "The Gospelaires" from Harrisville; services, Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Tim George, Clinton, evangelist; John Schoolar, pastor.

**Cascilla Church (Tallahatchie):** March 18-23; Sunday, 11 a.m., 7 nightly; Chester Cadwallader, retired, foreign missionary, Memphis, evangelist; Rick McKinney, West Memphis, Ark., music; Anthony Copeland, pastor.

**Coldwater (Marshall):** March 18-23; Sunday, Sunday School, 10 a.m., worship, 11 a.m., Discipleship Training, 5 p.m., worship, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Millard L. Swinney, interim pastor, Coldwater Church, evangelist; Delbert Brigrance, music; Sarah Farley, pianist; Darline Brigrance, organist.

**Concord, Dry Creek (Tippah):** March 18-25; services, 11 a.m. and 6:45 p.m., Sunday, 7:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri., 6 p.m., covered dish supper and gospel singing; Jimmy Knight, Laurel, evangelist; Gerald Thompson, Booneville, music; Pam Wallis, pianist; Lynn Corbin, organist; W. G. Dowdy, pastor.

**County Line Church (Attala):** March 18-21; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. 7:30 p.m.; Paul Williamson Jr., evangelist; Morris Cockroft, music; Martin Williams, pastor.

**East Mount Zion Church, Baldwyn:** March 18-23; services, 7 p.m.; Chuck Hampton, Flora, evangelist; Eddie Campbell, music; Ed Campbell, pastor.

**First Church, Boyle:** March 18-23; services, Sunday, 10 a.m. and 7 nightly; J. Ray Grissett, director, Cooperative Missions, MCB, evangelist; Buddy McElroy, Harmony Church, Laurel, music.

**First Church, Coffeeville (Yalobusha):** March 18-23; services, noon and 7 p.m.; Gene Henderson, First Church, Brandon, evangelist; Keith Stevens, First Church, Water Valley, music; Truman D. Scarborough, pastor.

**First Church, Tchula (Holmes):** March 18-21; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Charles Pratt, director of missions, Jackson, Tenn., evangelist; Lamar Self, First Church, Yazoo City, music; Ladell Blanton, pastor.

**First, Yazoo City:** March 18-21; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; James E. Jones, Campbellsville Church, Campbellsville, Ky., evangelist; John Yates, music evangelist, Jackson, music; James F. Yates, pastor.

**First (Alcorn):** March 18-21; Landrum Leavell II, president, New Orleans Seminary, evangelist; Jim Watson, minister of music, Germantown Church, Memphis, music evangelist; services, Sunday, 10:45 and 7 p.m.; noon services (Mon.-Wed.); 7, nightly; ladies conference, Tues. 10:30 a.m., led by Jo Ann Leavell; Dennis H. Smith, pastor.

**Glendale, Greenville (Washington):** March 18-23; Sunday, regular services, Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Kenneth Jones, Ephesus Church, Forest, evangelist; Edward Pendergrast, pastor.

**Good Hope Church, Lena (Leake):** March 18-23; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Jack Cross, Carthage, evangelist; Edward Dowell, Good Hope Church, Lena, music; Odell Tebo, pastor.

**Koloa Springs Church, Caledonia (Lowndes):** March 18-21; 7 p.m.; different preacher every night; Charlie Farrar, music; Don Harding, pastor.

**Mt. Pleasant Church, Mt. Pleasant:** March 18-23; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Windal Walker, McKenzie, Tenn., evangelist; Eddie Holmes, minister of music and education, Mt. Pleasant Church, music.

**New Home, Fulton (Itawamba):** March 18-21; Glen Brown, Evergreen Church, Tupelo, evangelist; 7 p.m.; C. D. Hood, pastor.

**New Prospect Church (Northwest):** March 18-21; Fuller Saunders, Jackson, evangelist; Fred Thompson, New Prospect Church, music; Joe T. Lusby, pastor.

**Park Place Church (Rankin):** March 18-21; Sunday, 10:45 and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Chuck Kelley, New Orleans Seminary, evangelist; Larry Kulcke, Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, music.

**Pilgrim Rest, Ethel (Attala):** March 18-21; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Danny Dodds, Second Church, Kosciusko, evangelist; Buster Oliver, Kosciusko, music; Genie Tindall, Kosciusko, pianist; Walter Hines, pastor.

**Pleasant Ridge, Woodland (Chickasaw):** March 18-21; services, 7 p.m.; Charles Melton, professor, Clarke College, evangelist; Lisa Gurley, Ackerman, music; Barron Pilgrim, pastor.

**Poplar Springs, Fulton (Itawamba):** March 21-25; services, 7 p.m.; Charles Holcomb, Mt. Vernon Church (Tishomingo), evangelist; Victor Clayton, pastor.

**Providence Church, Cleveland (Bolivar):** March 18-23; 7 nightly; John McBride, director, Shelby County Baptist Association, Memphis, evangelist; Dale Shaw, Providence Church, Cleveland, music; Eugene Walden, pastor.

**Providence, Tremont (Itawamba):** March 19-24; 7 p.m.; Coye Marbutt, Friendship Church, Red Bay, Ala., evangelist; Arthur Harden, pastor.

**Rena Lara Church, Rena Lara (North Delta):** March 18-23; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Artie Nute, Dockery Church, Dockery, evangelist; Aubrey Earnheart, member of Bellevue Church, Memphis, music; John Purvis, pastor.

**Riverhill, Fulton (Itawamba):** March 19-25; 7 p.m.; David Parker, Gateway Church, Ellisville, evangelist; S. E. O'Brian, pastor.

**Salem, Golden (Itawamba):** March 18-23; 7 p.m.; Marion Waddle, SBC foreign missionary, Uganda, Salem is his home church, evangelist; Ronnie Gholston, Salem Church, Golden, music; Howard Curbow, pastor.

**Sturgis Church (Oktibbeha):** March 18-23; 11 a.m., 7 nightly; Craig Conner, Michael Memorial Church, Gulfport, evangelist; Bill Collum, Calvary Church, Starkville, music; Steve Lammons, pastor.

**Trinity, Fulton (Itawamba):** March 18-21; 7 p.m.; Glenn Davis, First Church, Sumrall, evangelist; Larry Montgomery, Tupelo, music evangelist; Howard Peak, pastor.

**Valley Hill Church (Carroll):** March 18-21; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:45 p.m.; Larry Edwards, Mt. Olive Church (Carroll), evangelist; Gary Tanner, pastor.

**First Church, Kosciusko:** March 18-21; Jim Futral, Broadmoor Church, Jackson, evangelist; Graham Smith, Jackson, music, services, Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. and Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

**Williamsville Church, Kosciusko:** March 18-21; Sunday, 11 a.m., noon meal, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; J. Roy McComb, First Church, Columbia, evangelist; Jeff Parker, First Church, Morton, music; Tom McCurley, pastor.

**Hebron Church (Yazoo):** March 18-21; Sunday, 11 a.m., afternoon service, 1:45; dinner on the grounds following morning services; Mon.-Wed., 7:30; Mike Stanley, Stilwell, Okla., evangelist; Karen McGraw, music; Bill Hutto, pastor.

**Union West Church, Oxford (Lafayette):** March 18-21; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Donnie Stewart, former pastor of First Church, Holly Springs and First Church, Coffeeville, evangelist; Carl Ray, music evangelist, Southaven, music; Terry Carver, pastor.

## Homecomings

**Holly Springs Church, Brookhaven (Lincoln):** March 18; dinner on the grounds, noon; afternoon singing, 1 p.m.; Bobby Smith, guest speaker; Sherra Smith, Brookhaven, music; Glenn McInnis, pastor.

**Wildwood Church, Tupelo:** March 18; 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; covered dish in fellowship hall; Heaven Bound, Kinston, N.C., guest singers, 1:30 p.m.; R. J. Wilemon, Tupelo, evangelist; Don Sparks, pastor.

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1. Begin the day in a calm and cheerful mood; say "This is going to be a good day, I will be calm and cheerful today."
2. Try smiling at others. A smile is contagious and you will feel better as others smile at you.
3. Count your blessings — list them one by one. Did you ever realize the real wealth you have?
4. Enjoy this day with beautiful thoughts, pleasant memories. Live life one day at a time.
5. Be adventurous. Try walking, and see new neighborhoods, new buildings and parks, new scenery.
6. Give a friend a phone call or write a letter. Tell him you were thinking about him, encourage him. Encouragement is oxygen to the soul.
7. Be a happy person, see the bright side of life. Having a cheerful, loving attitude lends itself to your best health.
8. Do a good deed, or give something beneficial to a loved one.
9. Give of yourself, offer your services to a hospital, to a church, help people. The law of giving will reward you tenfold.
10. Do the best you can each day. You are really living only when you are useful and constructive. — Alfred A. Montapert.

## Baptists in Russia

(Continued from page 2)  
Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: And lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Mat. 28:19-20).

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Charles C. Walker is a member of Lynn Ray Road Church, Petal.

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Crumpler



Caldwell



Littauer



Lotz

## "Lord, change me . . ." conference for women to be held in April

NEW ORLEANS — "Lord, Change Me . . . for Your Glory" will be the theme of the second women's conference of its kind to be held on the campus of New Orleans Seminary April 26-28.

Over 1,500 women attended the first "Lord, Change Me . . ." conference in 1986.

Among speakers will be Iris Blue, Missions Service Corps volunteer, Dallas, Texas; Marge Caldwell, speaker, author, counselor, and humorist, Houston, Texas; Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler, former executive director, Woman's Missionary Union, and now a pastor's wife from Cincinnati, Ohio; Florence Littauer, author and international speaker from San Bernardino, Calif.; and Anne Graham Lotz, Bible teacher, speaker, and mother from Raleigh, N.C.

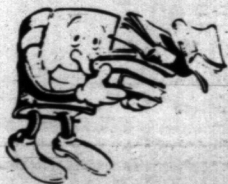
Music will be led by Diane Machon

of Dallas, Tex. Diane and her husband, Chris, are full-time music evangelists.

Seminars will be led on a variety of topics: career, parenting, marriage, spiritual disciplines, prayer, gifts of the Spirit, lifestyle evangelism, self-esteem, missions, and ministers' wives.

Co-chairing the event are Jo Ann Leavell, wife of New Orleans Seminary President Landrum P. Leavell II; and Rhonda Kelley, director of speech pathology at Ochsner Hospital in New Orleans, Bible teacher, and conference leader.

Reservations to attend should be made as soon as possible, as housing space is limited. Cost: \$35. For more information, contact the Office of Continuing Education, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, La., 70126, or call (504) 282-4455, ext. 3260.



## Book reviews

Platt and Branch; Larry A. and Roger G.; **RESOURCES FOR MINISTRY IN DEATH AND DYING.** Nashville, Broadman; 1988.

The book is a compilation of essays written on subjects related to death and ministering to those who have faced death.

The book is divided in six sections. These are "Death in America," "Death and Bereavement Across the Life Cycle," "Dealing with the Dying Patient," "The Funeral," "Grief and Bereavement," and "Resources for Death-Related Ministry." In each section there are at least three chapters relating to the subject and sometimes as many as six.

The authors cover a broad perspective in the book. It is very thorough. It does contain an awful lot of "counseling" terminology which makes it a bit more difficult to understand in certain areas. However, this is off-set by much practicality in other areas.

I would recommend every minister purchase this book. You may not read it and digest it in the first reading. You really do not need to. It is the kind of book that is good to have in your library. I believe you would go to it often for suggestions in dealing with this area of pastoral ministry.

Reviewed by Greg Potts, pastor of Heucks Retreat Church, Brookhaven.

Willard, Dallas; **THE SPIRIT OF THE DISCIPLINES;** San Francisco; Harper and Row; 1988.

The author is professor and past director of the School of Philosophy at the University of Southern California.

The book is built around the idea that Christian people will only be able to live as Jesus did when we re-discover the spiritual disciplines. What are these disciplines?

The author presents two lists: Disciplines of Abstinence, and Disciplines of Engagement. The Disciplines of Abstinence are solitude, silence, fasting, frugality, chastity, secrecy, and sacrifice. The Disciplines of Engagement are study, worship, celebration, service, prayer, fellowship, confession, and submission.

The idea for the book is great. However, it was a difficult book to read primarily because of much of the terminology the author used. I felt the author could have been a bit clearer in some areas and would have done a much better job of communicating with the reader.

There are many Christians who need to read this book and apply the principles in their lives.

Reviewed by Greg Potts, pastor of Heucks Retreat Church, Brookhaven.

Vines, Jerry; **WANTED: SOUL-WINNERS;** Nashville; Broadman.

Each year Broadman Press publishes a book by the president of the Southern Baptist Convention. This edition is entitled, "Wanted: Soul Winners," by Jerry Vines. Vines is co-pastor of the First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

The book contains 11 chapters. Each chapter deals with the subject of soul-winning and evangelism. The purpose of the book is to inspire Southern Baptists to get back to the basics of winning souls for Jesus. Each chapter is filled with sermon and illustrative material any pastor would find helpful.

Every Christian should read this book if for no other purpose than to rekindle the flames of evangelism and a zeal for souls.

Reviewed by Greg Potts, pastor of Heucks Retreat Church, Brookhaven.

# Southern Baptists, Catholics begin new round of conversation

DURHAM, N.C. (BP) — Southern Baptists and Roman Catholics have begun their fourth round of interfaith conversations.

Representatives from the two faiths met at a Catholic retreat center outside Durham, N.C., March 2-4, to lay the groundwork for the new talks, which will focus on the subject of biblical ministry.

The group will meet once a year for the next three years in informal sessions to explore common ground and differences in the way the two faiths address ministry issues. Subtopics scheduled for discussion include human dignity, sacredness of human life, sexuality and marriage, family values, and stewardship of creation.

The nation's two largest denominations began their interfaith conversations in 1978 with a discussion of "The Church: Its Nature and Function." The second session, begun in 1982, dealt with "The Life of Grace Within Us." The third session, begun in 1985, resulted in publication of a statement of agreements and disagreements on a range of subjects. That statement and a history of the first 10 years of dialogues was published in a 163-page edition of "The Theological Educator," the theology journal of New Orleans Seminary.

Southern Baptist participation in the conversations is facilitated by the interfaith witness department of the convention's Home Mission Board. However, participants do not represent an official position of the board or of Southern Baptists.

Southern Baptist participants in the fourth round of talks are James Leo Garrett, professor of theology at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas; William Hendricks, professor of Christian theology at Southern in Louisville, Ky.; Em-

manuel McCall, director of the HMB Black Church Extension Division in Atlanta; Louis Moore, associate director of the Christian Life Commission in Nashville; William Richardson, area director for Brazil and the Caribbean with the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va.; Bobbie Sorrell, associate executive director of Woman's Missionary Union in Birmingham, Ala.; Gary Leazer, director of the HMB Interfaith Witness Department; and William Gordon, HMB national missionary for interfaith witness.

McCall and Sorrell were not able to attend the recent session. Barbara Elder of the WMU staff substituted for Sorrell.

Roman Catholic representatives are James Niederges, bishop of Nashville; Robert Dalton, vice president of Glenmary Home Missioners in Cincinnati; Jean-Marie Heisberger, director of the Institute for Pastoral Life in Kansas City, Mo.; William Norvel, pastor of Most Pure Heart of Mary Church in Mobile, Ala.; Carroll Stuhlmueller, professor of Scripture at Chicago Theological Union; Yolanda Tarango, co-director of the Hospitality House in San Antonio, Texas; Jude Weisenbeck, pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Nashville; Thaddeus Horgan, a staff member for the Bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs in Washington.

## High school Baptist young men rally in Tennessee and Arkansas

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — Over 500 High School Baptist Young Men and their advisors representing 11 states met in Gatlinburg, Tenn., for the annual High School Baptist Men's Rally on Feb. 9-11.

Hot Springs, Ark., was the gathering place for almost 200 High School Baptist Young Men and their advisors during the weekend of Feb. 23-25. This rally included young men from seven states, Mississippi among them.

Image, the public relations ensemble from Belmont College, Nashville, Tenn., kicked off the weekend in Gatlinburg with special music. They were followed by a testimony from Craig Steele, missionary to Brazil.

George Fields, a Christian entertainer from Louisville, Ky., was

featured during the banquet Saturday evening.

Home missionary Randy Foster shared about his work in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, at the two rallies.

The weekend at Hot Springs commenced with a testimony by Charles Corey, a missionary in Guatemala City, Guatemala, on Friday night. Saturday evening's banquet featured Dennis Swanberg, comedian and pastor, Second Church, Hot Springs.

Before departing Sunday morning, the young men were admonished by James Smith, Brotherhood Commission president, to "follow the example of Christ, experience the presence of Christ in your life and express servanthood as Christ did."

## Pastoral care seminar will look at ministers' health

"The Minister's Health — Prevention Instead of Treatment" is the topic of the annual Pastoral Care Seminar on Thursday, March 29, at 9:30 a.m. in Mississippi Baptist Medical Center's Gilfoy Auditorium. The speakers are to be Robert Hosford, psychologist; Holland Addison, MBMC internist; Steven Romano, director of Mississippi Baptist Sports/Life Fitness Center; and Paul Jones, executive director-treasurer, Christian Action Commission, Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Other participants will include Graham Hales, chaplain, Forrest General Hospital, Hattiesburg; Frank Thomas, pastor, Alta Woods Church, Jackson; Rex Yancey, pastor, First Church, Quitman.

The speakers will discuss ways to encourage ministers toward a healthy lifestyle. The seminar, sponsored by MBMC's Pastoral Care Department and the Christian Action Commission, is free and open to the public. For more information, call 968-5146.

## Baptist businessman expelled from China

TIANJIN, China (BP) — John Cragin, an American businessman who is Southern Baptist, was expelled from China March 5.

Chinese officials ordered Cragin to leave the country because he allegedly conducted "illegal missionary work," according to a report from the official New China News Agency.

Cragin, of Tahlequah, Okla., heads Management Technologies International, a management training institute formed as a private joint venture with the city of Tianjin.

Public Security Bureau agents in Tianjin seized material Feb. 17 they alleged Cragin was using for missionary work, the report said. Authorities accused Cragin of carrying out the illegal activity under the guise of holding English-language

training courses for Chinese.

Missionaries have not worked in China since 1951, although foreign Christians now work there in a variety of educational and technical roles.

Cragin's expulsion is not expected to have negative impact on other American Christians working in China, observers said. He was not sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention but was directing a private joint venture.

Other personnel in China sponsored by Southern Baptist institutions, such as colleges and universities, have contract relationships with the Chinese institutions they serve and are aware of restrictions, if any, on religious activities in their areas.

Cragin could not be reached for comment.

## SS leadership training set for Gulfshore

A leadership training conference will take place March 16-17 at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, featuring specialized training for leaders in all areas of Sunday School.

Training will be included for leaders of younger and middle preschoolers, older preschoolers, middle children, older children, youth, adults, adult department directors, Sunday School directors, pastors and staffers, and outreach leaders.

Bible study leader will be Gene Henderson, pastor of First Church, Brandon. Music leader will be Rick Greene of Jackson.

Registration on March 16 begins at 3 p.m. with dinner at 5 and sessions beginning at 6. The conference concludes at noon the next day.

To register for the conference, contact Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian, Henderson Point, MS 39571. Cost is \$31 for lodging and food.

The conference is sponsored by the MBCB's Sunday School Department.

## North Delta men build in Arizona

Fourteen men from North Delta Association recently went on a mission trip to Sunizona, Ariz., to help finish the inside of a new church building. They built partitions and a platform, did electrical work, and put up sheetrock. Churches that took part included Cherry Street, Crowder, Lambert, Lula, Lyon, and Rena Lara.





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And The World To Jesus!

	Churches Reporting	Gospel Presentations	Number of Conversions
Adams	1	10	10
Alcorn			
Attala			
Benton-Tippah	1	7	4
Bolivar			
Calhoun	11	40	2
Carroll			
Chickasaw			
Choctaw	2	3	3
Clarke	9	31	8
Clay			
Copiah			
Covington			
Franklin	17	3	0
George	12	9	1
Greene			
Grenada			
Gulfcoast			
Hinds-Madison	3	16	2
Holmes			
Humphreys			
Itawamba			
Jackson	9	15	5
Jasper			
Jeff Davis			
Jones			
Kemper			
Lafayette			
Lamar			
Lauderdale	6	20	4
Lawrence			
Leake			
Lebanon	10	380	8
Lee			
Leflore			
Lincoln			
Lowndes			
Marion			
Marshall			
Mississippi			
Monroe			
Montgomery			
Neshoba			
New Choctaw			
Newton			
North Delta			
Northwest	1	34	3
Noxubee			
Oktibbeha	1	3	0
Panola			
Pearl River			
Perry			
Pike			
Pontotoc			
Prentiss			
Rankin	17	28	18
Scott	1	40	0
Sharkey-Issaquena			
Simpson			
Smith			
Sunflower	1	3	3
Tallahatchie			
Tishomingo	1	10	10
Union			
Union Co.			
Walthall			
Warren			
Washington			
Wayne			
Webster	1	1	1
Winston			
Yalobusha			
Yazoo			

## Baylor suit reportedly settled out of court

DALLAS (BP) — A lawsuit filed by a former Baylor University student alleging that she was forced to leave the Texas Baptist school because of a policy barring pregnant, unmarried students has been settled out of court, the school's student newspaper reported March 2.

"The case has been settled out of court and nothing else will be said about it," Baylor President Herbert H. Reynolds told the Baylor Lariat.

No additional information concerning terms of the settlement was made available by Baylor University.

Former Baylor student Dawn L. Bonner and the Dallas Civil Liberties

Union filed suit last September, charging that Baylor officials had violated her civil and constitutional rights by forcing her to leave school in October, 1987 because she was pregnant and unmarried.

In her suit, Bonner claimed Baylor failed to inform her of an "unwritten policy" requiring pregnant, unmarried women to leave school.

At the time, Baylor officials pointed to the university's 144-year-old set of general principles requiring students to conduct themselves "in accordance with Christian principles as perceived by Texas Baptists."

## Seminaries resuming reins of off-campus programs

NASHVILLE (BP) — Administration of the seven off-campus programs directed by the Southern Baptist Seminary Studies Department will return to individual seminaries effective Aug. 1.

Roy L. Honeycutt, president of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., made the announcement on behalf of the seminary presidents' council.

Master's-level theological studies programs have been operated jointly in New York; Baltimore; Orlando; Nashville; Jackson, Tenn.; Little Rock, Ark.; and Lubbock, Texas, some for as long as 10 years.

While the day-to-day direction was handled through the department in

Nashville as part of the Southern Baptist Seminary External Education Division, one of the seminaries was designated as "lead seminary" for each of the programs. Under the reorganization, the lead seminaries will assume responsibility for their respective programs.

Southern Seminary will oversee the Baltimore, Nashville and Jackson programs. The Orlando program will come under New Orleans Seminary. Little Rock will relate to Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. Lubbock will be administered by Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Southeastern Seminary in Wake

Forest, N.C., has been lead seminary for the New York program, but local leaders there and in Baltimore have requested that these locations be made part of the Northeastern Baptist School of Ministry. The School of Ministry is a project jointly sponsored by the seminaries, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, and five Baptist state conventions in the northeastern United States.

## Cox to lead youth meet at Gulfshore

The annual Youth Missions Conference for youth (grades 7-12), youth leaders, and interested college students will be held April 13-14 at Gulfshore Assembly.

The special guests will be Larry Cox, a former missionary to Burkina Faso and the Ivory Coast, now assistant to the president of Mississippi College, and John Yates, Jackson, music evangelist.

The times are 1 p.m., Friday, through 3 p.m., Saturday.

For more information, contact the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 968-3800.

## Team Ministry Conference will be offered in Mississippi

NASHVILLE — Helping church staff members learn how to work more effectively together is the purpose of A Team Ministry Conference which will be held April 23-24 at Gulfshore Assembly.

Sessions in the two-day conference will be held by title and church as well as in a general session for pastors, ministers of education, ministers of music, ministers of youth, ministers of children and preschool, and secretaries.

Julius Thompson, consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Convention, urged as many staff members from the same church as possible to attend this

conference together to provide planning and enhance team building.

Six consultants from the church administration department of the Sunday School Board will lead sessions at the conference, including Will Beal, John Chandler, Brooks Faulkner, Richard Ross, Bob Couch, and Donna Gandy.

The cost to attend the conference is \$25 per person, which covers all materials, including a copy of the book, *Sharing the Joy in Team Ministry*.

To register, write to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, Miss. 39571.

## Spanish evangelicals, Jews win new rights

MADRID, Spain (BP) — Evangelical Christians and Jews gained new legal recognition and rights as the Spanish government signed a first-ever agreement with non-Roman Catholic religious groups Feb. 21, according to a report in the daily newspaper El Pais.

The agreement provides legal recognition of Jewish and evangelical marriages, offers religious instruction in different faiths in public schools when parents desire it, and opens the way for non-Catholic clergy to enroll in the social security system. Catholicism has dominated Spain for centuries.

The document was signed by Enrique Mugica, the justice minister; Jose Cardona, a Baptist pastor and

general secretary of the Federation of Evangelical Religious Entities, representing 13 evangelical and Protestant faiths; and Samuel Tolédano, representing the Spanish Jewish community.

The accord also provides an income tax deduction plan for church contributions. The evangelical and Jewish groups turned down an offer to share in the proceeds of the current "religious tax," in which taxpayers designate a portion of their annual income taxes to a specific religious or social service entity. The offer to share in the religious tax revenue was controversial among evangelicals, who refused it on the grounds that it would create dependence of religious groups on the state.

## Names in the news

William Carey College student, Marvin "Bo" Farrior, is one of the recipients of this year's American Bible Society National Scholarly Achievement Award for excellence in Biblical Hebrew.

Son of Connie and Marvin Farrior, Sr., of Waynesboro, he is pursuing a double major in religion and chemistry and plans to be a bivocational pastor and public school teacher. He will receive from the American Bible Society a copy of *Biblica Hebraica*, a critical edition of the Hebrew Bible.



Lowrey Compere presented a dramatic monologue from the Book of Psalms in Clarke College chapel Feb. 21. Compere wore a costume depicting King David. This was one of several scripture presentations which he has committed to memory and given in church services and other public gatherings in Mississippi and neighboring states. Offerings taken in these services are donated to missions. Mrs. Sue Ford and Mrs. Nell Adams were soloists for the chapel service.

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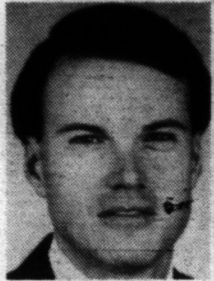
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# Samson — a golden boy who threw it all away

By N. Allan Moseley  
Judges 13:1-16:31

In the mid-1980s, in Raleigh, N.C., 235 World War II letters were found undelivered. Apparently the soldier who was assigned to mail them forgot and then hid them. It is sad to think of all of the personal messages in those letters that were never received. Perhaps some of those letters were the last ones written by soldiers on the front. Perhaps a father penned advice to a child, but it was never received.



Moseley

Unfulfilled expectations can become real tragedies. Perhaps there is no greater tragedy than the promise of a gifted life that is never developed. Samson was a golden boy; he had unlimited potential, and his parents had the highest of hopes for his future (chapter 13). However, Samson's full potential was never realized. There must have been many people of faith who were deeply disappointed because of what could have been accomplished for God, but it never came to pass.

There is a four-fold emphasis on the great

## BIBLE BOOK

promise of Samson's life in Judges 13. First, the presence of a birth narrative indicates that an important life is being introduced. Biblical birth narratives are used only for those who were especially significant, such as Moses, Samuel, John the Baptist, and Jesus.

Also, the miracles surrounding his birth (13:19-20) indicate that God was involved in the birth in such a way that this child would be special. The conception itself can be seen as miraculous, since Manoah's wife was barren (13:2), much like Sarah, the wife of Abraham (Gen. 18:11-14).

Third, the birth of Samson was heralded by the angel of the Lord, which was also the case with Abraham and Sarah (Gen. 18; c.f. Luke 2 concerning the birth of Jesus). In fact, the word "angel," which could also be translated "messenger," occurs no less than 12 times in chapter 13. Four times the angel is called "man."

Another indication that this life was to be special is that Samson was committed to the

Lord from his conception (13:5, 7). A Nazirite was someone who was set aside especially and intentionally for devotion and service to God (Numbers 6:1-21). The angel of the Lord made clear God's plan for his life. He was to be devoted to God "from the womb to the tomb" (13:7). How sad it is that Samson vetoed God's plan for his life, broke the Nazirite vow, and engaged in sin.

Samson's strength is proverbial. His exploits in battle were amazing indeed. What is less known is Samson's inglorious weakness of character. It is evident that he was weak in his relationship with women. Apparently he chose his bride solely on the basis of her physical appearance (14:1-3). He had relations with a harlot in Gaza (16:1), and had a relationship with Delilah that did not include marriage. It is clear that he did not enjoy good relationships with either his wife or Delilah. Both of them conspired against him. His wife's conspiracy may be understood in that the lives of her family were threatened (14:15), and all that Samson had to pay was 30 changes of clothes (14:12-13). However, Delilah plotted against him for 1,100 pieces of silver on behalf of Philistines who wanted to torture him (16:5). In both cases Samson proved his lack of strength by giving

in to the persistence of each woman and divulging valuable secrets.

Sin is rarely stagnant. It begins with enticing temptation, progresses to a single sinful act, and ultimately leads to a destiny and legacy. "Sow a thought, reap an action. Sow an action, reap a habit. Sow a habit, reap a life. Sow a life, reap a destiny." Perhaps Samson's first and critical error was the marriage to a Philistine woman (14:1-3). That deed revealed the rebellion in his heart against God's revealed will. God used it to accomplish his purpose (14:4), but from Samson's perspective it was disobedience to God's law. That sin was a snowball rolling downhill. It grew in size and speed as time went by, until finally the downward momentum of Samson's sin led to torture and death.

The story of Samson's life vividly illustrates the tragedy of a wasted life, and it serves as a warning of the consequences of sin. Though Samson was able to kill many Philistines, his accomplishments in battle seem to be the result of impetuous tirades, not systematic war. He could have done so much more.

Moseley is pastor, First Church, Durham, N.C. (formerly pastor of Bayou View, Gulfport.)

## 'Jesus shows us the pattern to confront evil'

By Wayne Campbell

Mark 11:15-18; 12:6-8, 38-40

When a local minister protested the accessibility of pornographic magazines to children in a neighborhood convenience store, he was told by the proprietors, "If you'll just mind your own business, preacher, we'll mind ours."



Campbell

How are we as Christians supposed to deal with evil in our society? Are we simply to shake our heads and observe that the world will inevitably become more and more wicked as time draws toward the end? Or does our Lord expect something more

of us?

Most Christians cannot help but be concerned about the proliferation of evil in the world. We are bothered by injustices, drug trafficking, child abuse, extortion, immorality, etc. But it is quite easy for us to adopt an attitude of noninvolvement and convince ourselves that these

## LIFE AND WORK

things are not our concern. While some of the manifestations of evil in our day may differ from those Jesus encountered, the basic problems have remained the same. Man's innate tendency to evil, mobilized by satanic forces, seeks to exploit people for profit, power, and pleasure. All evil victimizes people in some way.

In our text, Jesus reacts sternly to the evils of greed, profiteering, and hypocrisy. The abuses he found in the Gentiles' court in the temple not only represented a misuse of God's house, but were an outright defiance of God's concern for all peoples. Jesus' actions make it clear that we cannot follow his example and be passive in dealing with evil.

We may tend to shrink from condemning evils because of persons involved in the practices. Jesus had no such qualms. The chief priests, scribes, and elders all came under his fire. We

may need to be reminded that regardless of how awesome the powers of evil seem, "Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world."

A hard-hitting contemporary Christian song challenges us to "Love God; Hate Sin." Someone observed that it is not enough for a gardener to love flowers and vegetables. He must also hate weeds. Jesus' references to his followers as salt and light have relevance to our confronting evil. Both these elements can at times be irritants. That is not to say we are intentionally to antagonize persons whose practices we oppose. But it may remind us we must be willing to pay the price for taking a stand against evil. Jesus shows us both the pattern and the price for confronting wickedness. He is our authority when we take our stand on God's Word.

Are petitions, protests, and balloting valid methods of combating evil? Yes. So is any other method that is consistent with his Spirit and his Word. Some imagine a conflict between calling the world to Christ and fighting against evil in the world around us. Actually, both are facets of our God-given tasks as ministers of the One

who gave his life to free people from sin. Loving people and hating evil are two aspects of the same redemption. The profaning of the sacred is always at the heart of evil. That which evil targets for destruction, Jesus calls us to target with his truth. Years ago, John A. Howard, president of Rockford College, challenged his students to place on their mirrors a card inscribed with the phrase, "Truth is outraged by silence."

We are to make his presence known that sin might be exposed and righteousness revealed.

Billy Sunday, whose unorthodox style and uncompromising stance captured America's attention a few decades ago, declared, "I'm against sin. I'll kick it as long as I've got a foot, and I'll fight it as long as I've got a fist. I'll bite it as long as I've got a tooth. When I'm old and fistless and footless and toothless, I'll gum it till I go home to Glory and it goes home to perdition!"

For the business we're to mind, after all, is not ours but His.

Campbell is pastor, Chunky Church, Chunky.

## Facing crucial choices, at the scene of betrayal

By Tommy Vinson

John 18:1-14

Man was about to do his very worst to the Son of God! The Son of God was about to do his very best for man! Strengthened by the high priestly



Vinson

prayer of John 17, Jesus and his disciples moved with purpose toward their habitual place of retirement at a garden on the other side of the brook Kidron (vs. 1). Judas was depending upon the predictability of Jesus as a factor in leading the soldiers to them (vs. 2). Years earlier, this brook had been the scene of the betrayal of another, when Ahithophel, the close friend of David, had done a similar deed to the shepherd king (II Samuel 15:28-31). Now Judas, this pseudo-friend of Jesus, is about to perpetrate one of the most despicable crimes in history (vs. 3).

Perhaps, as our Lord crossed the brook Kidron in the Passover moonlight, he saw the murky waters saturated with the blood of the sacrifices of the temple. This may have stimulated his memory to think about what John had said of him years earlier, "Behold, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world." John, unlike the other gospels, gives no account of the agony of Gethsemane. He seems to be giving emphasis to the deity and glory of the Savior, whereas the synoptics are emphasizing the humanity and suffering of the Son of Man.

## UNIFORM

This incident did not catch Jesus by surprise (vs. 4). He had been moving toward this night at a steady pace all of his life (13:1, 3, 11). One gets the immediate impression that he was in complete control of the situation. This band of soldiers, which could have numbered as many as 600, did not intimidate him. Perhaps it was his courageous movement toward them, coupled with his forthright pronouncement of who he was, "I AM," that sent them reeling backwards. The "I AM" statement is in harmony with John's usage throughout the gospel. "I am the bread of life," "I am the light of the world," "I am the way, the truth, and the light," etc. All this supports John's overall purpose in writing this gospel which was, "That you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God" (20:31).

Throughout this entire ordeal, Jesus was thinking and acting on behalf of others. Speaking of his disciples, he said, "Let these go their way" (vs. 8). In protecting his disciples, he was fulfilling prophecy, and answering his own prayer which he had just finished praying (17:11-12). His intentions were to bear his trial and sufferings alone. Peter's reckless behavior with his sword threatened those intentions (vss. 10-11). Peter was aiming at Malchus' head, not his ear. Perhaps, still groggy from the deep sleep of a few moments earlier, he missed his mark. He stands as a perpetual model for those who have more zeal than knowledge. You can-

not help but admire his courage, but his "good intentions" did more harm for the cause of Christ than good.

There is a line from a poem about Malchus which reads:

"Let Jesus touch me? No!" he hissed,  
" 'Twas his disciple swung the sword, aiming at my head and missed.  
I want no part of Peter's Lord."

I wonder how many unbelievers are reluctant to let Jesus minister to their needs because of the rash behavior of one of his disciples.

This section closes (vss. 12-14) with Jesus, be-

ing paraded before Annas, father-in-law of Caiaphas, the current high priest. Jesus had invoked their anger by daring to challenge the priestly control of the temple. He had further incited their anger by exposing the merchandising character of the temple worship and cleansing it of religious racketeering. Caiaphas could not possibly have known the significance of the statement which he made, "It was expedient that one man should die for the people" (vs. 14, Cf. II Corinthians 5:21, I Peter 3:18.)

Tommy Vinson is pastor, Crossgates Church, Brandon.

## Itawamba Association will sponsor Youth Night

Itawamba Association is sponsoring countywide youth night for March 17 at 7 p.m., to be held at Trinity Church, Fulton.

Guest speaker will be Gregg Thomas, pastor of Fredonia Church near New Albany. He holds a master of divinity degree from Luther Rice Seminary and is currently working toward a doctor of ministries degree from the same school.

Natalie Ellis, member of the BSU

at Itawamba Community College, will provide special music and give her testimony. She was crowned Most Beautiful at ICC in 1988 and will participate in the Miss ICC pageant March 27, which is a preliminary for the Miss Mississippi pageant. She is a member of the Student Government Association Student Council.

Adults, as well as youths, are invited to this meeting.



# THE VILLAGE VIEW

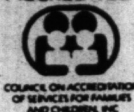


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## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

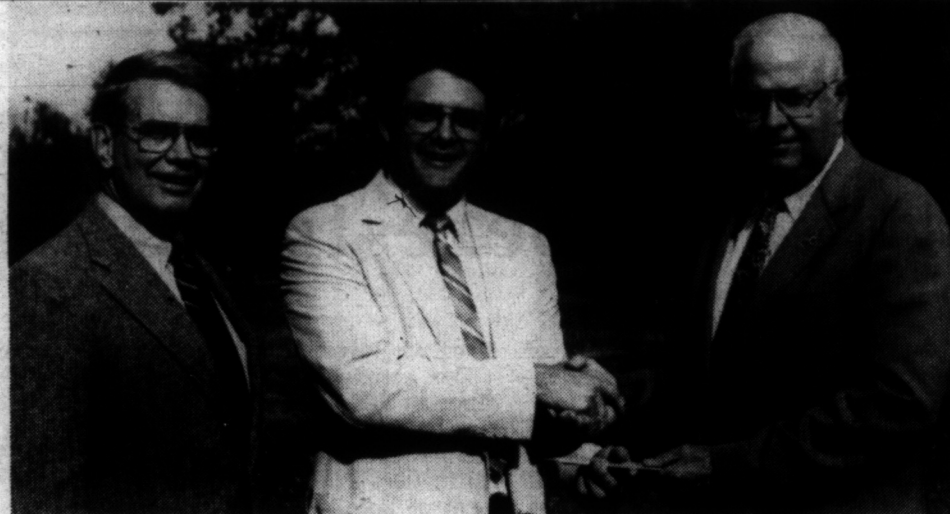
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## GOD BLESS YOU! — WHOEVER YOU ARE!

Pictured are Don Waller (right), President of Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation and Preston Gough (left), Executive Vice President Mississippi Farm Bureau Mutual, presenting \$1200 to Rev. Jerry Jackson (center), Director of Public Relations for The Baptist Children's Village.

## The Rest Of The Story

Farm Bureau received an envelope with no return address containing twelve one-hundred dollar bills, and an anonymous note saying "this is repayment, plus interest for a claim that should never have been filed with your company." Also included in the envelope was a tract "How To Become a Christian" that was printed by The Southern Baptist Convention.

Obviously this individual had become a Christian and was trying to right past wrongs.

The Baptist tract made Farm Bureau think of a letter they had received the day before from The Baptist Children's Village and the decision was made to present the unexpected money to The Village ministry.

We may never know who sent the money, but God bless you, whoever you are and thank you Farm Bureau for thinking of The Village.

## Help!

There is immediate need for mature, Christian couples and ladies, age 30 to 60 years, to serve as child care worker on our residential child care staff. Applicants must be in good physical and emotional health, prepared to accept 24-hour per day residential assignment with children.

- \*No previous experience required — we will train
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(To be continued)



# Soviet Baptist restructuring reflects perestroika, glasnost

MOSCOW (BP) — In an era of perestroika in the Soviet Union, Baptists likewise are restructuring.

The Soviet Union's largest Baptist body changed its name, scaled down its statistics, abolished its general secretary post, strengthened its presidency, and created three vice presidential posts responsible for activities once discouraged — and in some cases outlawed — by the government.

More than 700 Baptist delegates attended the 44th congress of the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in late February, some of them traveling across 11 time zones to Moscow. They voted to rename their national body the Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists, a change that suggests more autonomy for Baptist unions in the various republics, observers said.

Delegates also heard firsthand accounts from Baptists in Azerbaijan and other Soviet republics with majority Muslim populations, where Christians have faced persecution.

Many Christians in these regions fear for their lives, reported Denton Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance who attended the congress. Some Muslims have threatened to cut out Christians' tongues, he said. One Baptist leader said religious tensions have spurred 73 people in his congregation to abandon their homes; only seven have stayed.

In keeping with glasnost, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's thrust for "openness," Soviet Baptists scaled down their reported numbers from an estimated 500,000 members in 5,000 churches to about 250,000 members in 3,000 churches. That drops the union from the fourth-largest to the eighth-largest constituency in the Baptist World Alliance, even though reports indicate union churches have baptized more than 40,000 people in the past five years.

Baptist leaders were concerned that "numbers must be true, especially for the Christian," Alexei Bichkov, outgoing general secretary, told the congress. "We felt we should correct the

error, whatever the consequences."

The erroneous figure was first reported after World War II; and it may have included family members, Bichkov explained. Subsequent Baptist leaders avoided the embarrassment of admitting the mistake, he said.

The lower figure also reflects losses of Baptists, Pentecostals, and German Mennonites who have emigrated to the West and 42,000 Pentecostals, who, in the spirit of new Soviet openness, have withdrawn to form their own denomination. Pentecostal and Mennonite churches have been part of the union since 1944 largely because of pressures created by communist rule.

Other losses, Bichkov said, include those who were baptized but fearful of being listed as church members and some who joined independent churches.

Delegates abolished the general secretary post as part of their restructuring and elected Gregory Komendant of Kiev as the new president. The union's new bylaws assign executive powers to the president formerly shared with the general secretary.

Bichkov, general secretary since 1971, was elected to one of three new vice presidencies. He will oversee education and communication. Nicolai Kolesniko, outgoing treasurer, was elected vice president for evangelism, a post that also includes missions. Both posts reflect new opportunities Soviet Baptists are exploring in light of the country's new freedoms.

Alexander Firisyuk, who had been deputy superintendent of Baptist work in the Republic of Byelorussia, was elected vice president for administration and finance.

At 44, Komendant is the youngest person ever to lead Soviet Baptists. He had been deputy superintendent of Baptist work in the Ukraine since 1981. His father and grandfather were Baptist pastors. His grandfather was arrested in 1949 and never was heard from again.

Komendant, also a pastor in Kiev since the early 1970s, entered Baptist

administrative work in the city and surrounding region in 1975 after finishing seminary studies in Hamburg, West Germany.

"This was the first time in many years that no pressure was exerted on us by authorities concerning whom to elect," commented Vasile Logvinenko, the union's outgoing president, during a news conference that included reporters from such Soviet government news operations as Tass.

"Especially in our country God has given us new opportunities," Firisyuk said in the opening message of the congress. "Everyone in the world is looking at us to see how we will use them."

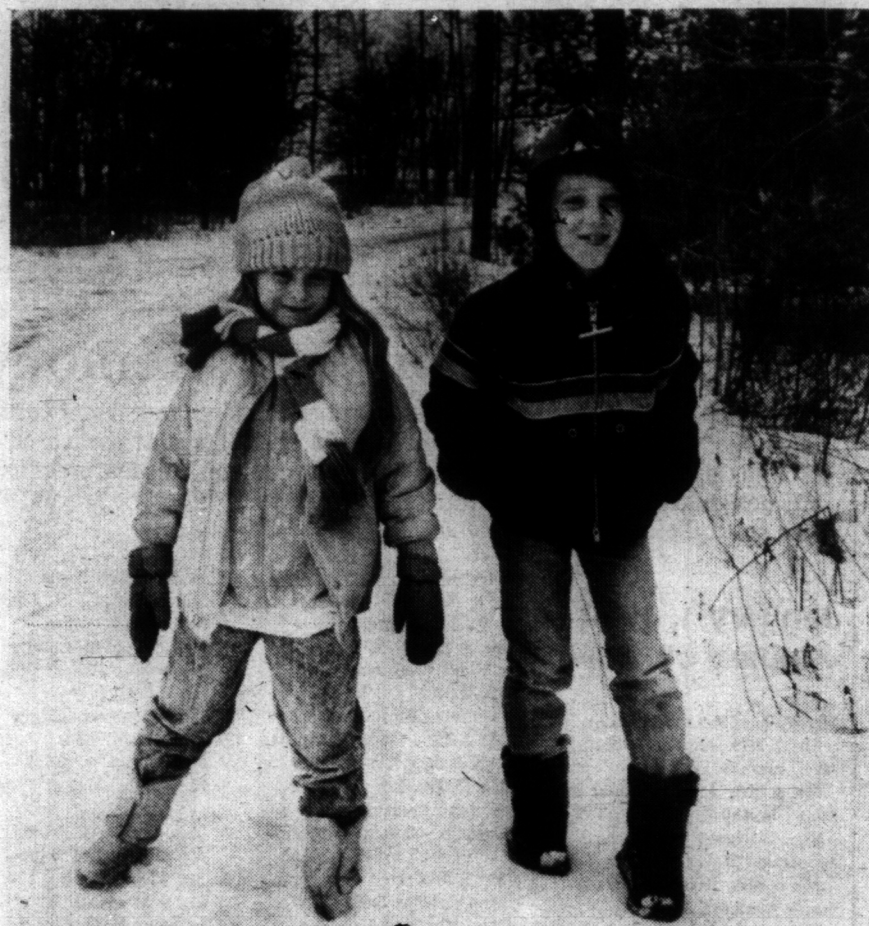
"The work of the congress was intense, with morning, afternoon, and evening business sessions," reported Stanley Crabb, director of European Baptist Press Service, who covered the meeting. The congress voted to meet every four years instead of the traditional five. Crabb described debates during the congress as "lengthy . . . controversial at times."

The union's international department came under sharp criticism, Crabb said. Delegates complained the department is overstaffed with 10 employees who travel abroad too often.

"The congress virtually gave a mandate to their new leaders to dissolve the department," Crabb noted. "The new president pledged he would honor all decisions of the congress, including this one."

In another moment of glasnost, Bichkov told the congress that Baptists have lost an opportunity to buy a building within a couple of miles of the Kremlin to use as a seminary. The Soviet government's Department of Religious Affairs had promised the building to Baptists, but Moscow's City Council approved its sale to another party.

Bichkov quoted a religious affairs official as saying: "We are in a very confusing situation. If we can't return this piece of property to you, we will seek other solutions."



## 'Missionary kid' amazes doctors

A WALK IN THE SNOW — Sarah Hessling, left, and her brother, Michael, enjoy a walk through the snow in Palms, Mich. Less than three months ago Sarah, 7-year-old daughter of Southern Baptist missionaries Warren and Sharon Hessling, could not walk because of nerve damage in her spinal cord. But she has almost fully recovered — a development called near-miraculous by doctors — and the family hopes to return to Sierra Leone, in west Africa, this month. (BP) PHOTO by Sharon Hessling

## Staff changes

Carterville Church, Petal, has called Dennis K. McAnally as minister of education, effective March 18. His previous place of service was First Church, Grenada. McAnally received his education at Delta State University and New Orleans Seminary. He has six years experience with the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics.

Scott Fraser has accepted the call to First Church of Fenton, Mo., for the position of minister of music and senior adults, effective March 12.

He is going to First Church, Fenton, from Centreville Church, Centreville.

Fraser is a graduate of Mississippi State University, and holds a master of music from New England Conservatory of Music and master of religious education from New Orleans Seminary.



Fraser

## Stevens listed in "Unsung Heroes"

Jerry W. Stevens, Louisville, director of missions, Winston County Association, was among 10 "Unsung Heroes" recently honored in a feature published by the Winston County Journal.

"Stevens celebrated his tenth anniversary as director on Feb. 15," the article states, "and has worked especially hard this past year getting the ministry center next door to the Winston County Baptist Building started. He also worked behind the scenes to make the county-wide revival crusade last May a success."

His wife, Bonnie, stated in the article that "in spite of serious health problems, a heart condition, and Parkinson's disease, he has continued to do his work and help others. After having had brain surgery at Mayo Clinic on Halloween, 1988, it would have been easy for him to give up."

"However, I am very thankful that he had the courage to fight back and improve," she stated. "No one knows better than I, his wife, how very hard this battle was, and how much faith and determination it took. In my opinion, he is truly a hero."

The feature presented "people among us who give of themselves beyond the job description, beyond the 40-hour week."

## Q & A on Drugs . . .

## What sorts of marijuana preparations are used in the United States?

### Marijuana (Pot)

This is the leaves, flowering tops, stems, and seeds. It is the most commonly used substance. Manicuring removes the stems and seeds. It is sometimes adulterated with oregano, grass, or other inactive, leafy plants. The psychoactive ingredient is delta-9-THC. The strength varies from practically no delta-9-THC in wild, American marijuana to four to five percent in Nepalese or some Vietnamese material.

### Hashish (Hash)

The resin collected from the flowers and upper leaves of high grade cannabis. It contains about 10 percent delta-9-THC when unadulterated with sugar to increase the weight. It is the material used in Europe and is becoming increasingly popular here. Superpot (Hash Oil)

Minor entrepreneurs are distilling marijuana to produce a preparation of higher potency. The amount of delta-9-THC is variable depending upon the solvent and method, but may be stronger than hashish. What are the known adverse effects of smoking marijuana?

Some of the acute and subacute physical complaints following relatively heavy smoking include rhinitis, pharyngitis, asthma, and bronchitis. Continuing use leads to a chronic bronchitis with some impairment of pulmonary function. Swelling of the uvula has been mentioned, especially in hashish users.

Acne has been described, but it may reflect careless hygiene rather than a specific effect of cannabis. Diarrhea is noted by some people, and this is drug specific. Increased heart rate

and red eyes are routinely found. Evidence does not support the development of brain damage. The "amotivational" syndrome develops in some regular, heavy users. In this condition, the young person loses motivation to achieve. Decreasing grades, failing, or dropping out of school occurs.

This question was answered by Tom Milhorn, M.D., Ph.D., who is the medical staff director at Mississippi Baptist Chemical Dependency Center.

Please send all your questions about drug and alcohol dependency to Chaplain Don Nerren, 1225 N. State St., Jackson, MS 39202-2002, or call toll free outside Jackson at 1-800-962-6868 or in Jackson at 968-1102. All questions will be answered in letter form whether or not they appear in this column.

Baptist Record

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